N O T I C E

Effective 1 April, the Iran and South Asia sections of the FBIS Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be incorporated into a new South Asia DAILY REPORT. The Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be renamed Middle East & Africa and will include material on Sub-Saharan Africa effective the same date.

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STEADFASTNESS FRONT CONFERENCE POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL

JN232042 Doha QNA in Arabic 2025 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus, 23 March--It has been learned from an official Syrian source that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit conference, which was scheduled to be held in Damascus on 28 March, has been postponed until April.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Damascus, the responsible Syrian source said that the issue of convening the conference was discussed by the Syrian and Algerian presidents during their talks today. The source added that new contacts are being undertaken among the front's participants in order to fix the date and venue of the conference, which will certainly be held next month. It will be recalled that this front comprises Syria, Algeria, the PDRY, Libya and the PLO.

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN260832 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 26 March--Sources close to the Palestinian resistance in Beirut have disclosed that Yasir 'Arafat has been exposed to an assassination attempt. Quoting these sources, the newspaper AL-ANBA' says here today that the resistance security apparatus aborted the attempt and arrested one of the perpetrators.

The paper explains that the attempt was scheduled to be carried out during 'Arafat's depature for 'Alayh to participate in the celebrations marking the third anniversary of Kamal Junblatt's martyrdom last Sunday.

'ARAFAT PRAISES KREISKY, DISCUSSES PLO POLICY

AU251415 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 25 Mar 80 p 3 AU

[Exclusive Georg Possanner interview with Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut on 23 March 1980]

[Text] Beirut--Two weeks after the announcement of the official recognition of the PLO by Austria its chairman Yasir 'Arafat has for the first time commented on the consequences of this step and its effects on the policy of the PLO, in an exclusive interview with DIE PRESSE. For security reasons the talk took place at 'Arafat's military command headquarters in Beirut. It began at 0100 hours on Sunday morning [23 March] and was held in the presence of (Mahmoud Labadi), head of the PLO's foreign information department, who on account of his perfect knowledge of German acted as an interpreter. The most important statement made by 'Arafat was what he said in reply to the question whether he only wanted a state for the Palestinians or Israeli's destruction as well: ...I have no intention of killing anyone and destroying anyone...." During his recent visit to Vienna the PLO chief had still avoided such a statement.

DIE PRESSE: What does the recognition of the PLO by Austria mean for you in connection with the latest statements by French President Giscard d'Estaing and the forthcoming Middle East initiative of the EEC?

Yasir 'Arafat: The Austrian step was a vanguard action, it was progressive. You should not overlook the fact that my visit to Austria was at the same time my first visit to a Western country; then came my visit to Spain, which was just as successful as the following one to Portugal.

DIE PRESSE: One might gain the impression that Chancellor Kreisky wants to be "more Palestinian" than even Arab leaders and most European statemen?

'Arafat: No, you cannot say more than the Arabs but only more than the Europeans. Certainly, he (Kreisky) is ahead of all others in that respect. First, because he regards our cause as just and, second, because he is far-sighted and this is also reflected in what he says. Kreisky has intuitively adopted the right approach.

DIE PRESSE: Did he not seek to lunge forward to get ahead of Giscard?

'Arafat: As I have said, Kreisky possesses far-sightedness, far more than the others, as regards the Palestinian future, the Palestinian people's right and it cause. However, this does not mean that we do not highly appreciate what Giscard d'Estaing has declared. That is particularly important.

DIE PRESSE: Kreisky recently declared that there would be another meeting with you soon. It is rumored, probably in Austria?

'Arafat: I hope so. I very much hope so. But nothing has been fixed yet, although I must prepare myself for it, as soon as I have a chance of getting to Europe.

DIE PRESSE: Now, regarding your relations with Jordan: Is it not a fact that King Kusayn of Jordan has not yet expressly come out in favor of a Palestinian state?

'Arafat: No, that is wrong. He has frequently said so to me.

DIE PRESSE: But not officially?

'Arafat: Oh yes, officially, during the Arab summit conference and also in some of his press interviews.

DIE PRESSE: Thus, you are saying that King Husayn is for a Palestinian state?

'Arafat: Yes, yes. In this context let me tell you what I said at the Rabat summit meeting in 1974, after the Arab leaders accepted the Palestinians' right to self-determination, to return to their homeland and to an independent state, as well as the PLO's right to sole representation. I declared before all leaders on behalf of the Palestinians that I am ready to establish a special relationship between the two states, between Jordan and Palestine.

DIE PRESSE: Can you explain this in greater detail?

'Arafat: No, we will formulate that after we have achieved our independence.

Carter, Begin, As-Sadat meeting: "Continuation of the PLO"

DIE PRESSE: I gather from the Arab press that Syrian President Al-Asad has invited the Fedayeens to attack Israel across the Syrian borders. Will you avail yourself of that offer?

'Arafat: We will have to talk that over first with our brothers in Syria, and we will discuss it at this week's session of the "Front of Steadfastness."

DIE PRESSE: What do you expect of Carter's meeting with Prime Minister Begin and President as-Sadat in April?

'Arafat: I do not attach any importance to that meeting because it is merely a continuation of the plot against our people.

DIE PRESSE: Don't you think that 26 May is also a significant date for President as-Sadat's political future? Would you advise As-Sadat to get off the peace train?

'Arafat: I am certain that the talks will come to a dead end, even if they were to be cosmetically touched up. And, as far as As-Sadat, is concerned, I don't care what he does.

DIE PRESSE: Thus, As-Sadat is the lost son of the Arab nation?

'Arafat: More than that, he has cheated the Palestinians, and the Egyptians, too, will get wise to the fact that he has cheated them.

DIE PRESSE: Do you give As-Sadat a chance, considering that the lost son, too, has returned? [laughter]

'Arafat: There is no connection. It is a matter for the Egyptians to say yes or no.

DIE PRESSE: What do you expect from the EEC initiative regarding the Middle East?

'Arafat: I hope that it will contain a clear and frank declaration of the Palestinian rights, the rights of the people's return to their homeland, to self-determination and to the establishment of a state, and that it will also contain the recognition of the PLO as representative of the people, as has already been given earlier by the United Nations.

DIE PRESSE: It is frequently said that the West is now recogniging the the Palestinian problem for opportunistic reasons, because of its oil supply, rather than for moral reaons?

'Arafat: All that interests me is the goal that my people returns and establishes an independent state. To me it is irrelevant whether Europe takes that position out of opportunist reasons or out of a sense of justice. However, we know that we are living in the 20th century.

DIE PRESSE: Now I would like to turn to fundamental questions. It has been said that without solving the Palestinain problem there can be no peace in the Middle East. But, can there be peace without Israel's consent?

'Arafat: This is false logic. It means that Israel has a veto in the region. That is wrong. For, when Europe was occupied by the Nazis, there were no such arguments. Such an argument is only used where Palestinian rights are concerned. Excuse me, your question is wrongly put. For it acknowledges occupation and terror. And Israel's new foreign minister (Shamir) who killed Count Bernadotte, is such a (terrorist) [paper's parentheses in both cases]. And Prime Minister Begin is wanted by British police because he is one of the greatest terrorists. It just cannot be done that the law of terror, which is represented by these two people, is now being used in your argumentation.

DIE PRESSE: I am not talking about those two, but about the fact that the state of Israel exists.

'Arafat: That is your assumption. Hitler existed, too--and where is his terror today? Israel cannot govern this region by force over a long period of time--that is contrary to history. What about the French occupation of Algeria? That of the Americans in Vietnam?

DIE PRESSE: Thus you envisage for Israel the same fate as for those colonial powers?

'Arafat: As long as Israel uses the same methods, the same fate will be in store for Israel. Your problem in Europe is that you see everything only through the Israeli glasses.

The Most Important Goal Is To Live Contentedly

DIE PRESSE: Now let us get down to brass tacks, Chairman 'Arafat: Is your goal only a Palestinian state? A homestead for your people? Or is it also the destruction of the currently existing Israel?

'Arafat: To me, the most important goal is that my people lives in peace, in a country of peace, in a free state, in a democratic state. I do not have the intention of killing anyone or destroying anyone. Our people wants to establish its state in its homeland. We are not waging a war for war's sake, to kill anyone--we have been assaulted and attacked. Sixty percent of our people are refugees, 40 percent of them are living under the occupation. The Palestinain tragedy is unique in history. And nevertheless we are not filled with hate and we do not bring up our children in hatred against anyone. Hence, when we made our first proposal for a solution, which was a civilized one, we declared: We are ready for a democratic state where Muslims, Jews and Christians live together in equality, justice and fraternity. Then we proposed the second solution, which has also been accepted by our national congress: We are ready to establish our independent Palestinian state on every inch of soil in Palestine from which the Israelis withdraw.

DIE PRESSE: Now, about your relationship with the superpowers: Is it true that you have not condemned the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan solely because you need Moscow so badly?

'Arafat: No. To me the central problem is my occupied fatherland. If certain circles talk about Islam, they should first and foremost talk about Jerusalem. They should talk about the Muslims, Christians and Palestinians who have been driven out, and about the occupiers who have been supported for years by the United States with arms and economic means, as well as by some European countries.

DIE PRESSE: What is your attitude toward communism?

'Arafat: Everyone knows that I am not a communist. However, you must not overlook that I have friendly relations with the socialist states and that I am very glad about that. They have always supported our cause, our rights, they are helping us, and thus at the same time the cause of the Arab peoples. They supply many Arab countries with their weapons which enable us to cope with the American arsenal in Israel.

DIE PRESSE: I see a picture of Ayatollah Khomeyni on the wall. Why is a non-religious movement such as the PLO supporting a theocracy?

'Arafat: Why? Just in the same way as we also respect the Vatican, and I hope that the Vatican will establish closer relations with us. We have the closest revolutionary relations with the Iranian people and Imam Khomeyni. We regard the revolution, which has liberated the Iranian people from the American hegemony, as a genuine revolution.

DIE PRESSE: You are not, I hope, in favor of their having taken hostages?

'Arafat: That is a matter for the Iranian Revolution, part of the struggle between it and American hegemony, to which it was exposed in the years since World War II. You are focusing only on this one thing, on the outside. Every revolution has its past, its present and its future. Before one can talk about the hostages it is necessary to talk about the Iranian's relations with the Americans.

VOP: 'ARAFAT CHAIRS MEETING OF HIGHER MILITARY COUNCIL

NC221553 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1515 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] At noon today, brother leader Abu 'Ammar chaired a meeting of the Palestinian revolution's higher military council. The council discussed current developments, particularly the military escalation by the Zionist-isolationist enemy in south Lebanon and the Zionist shelling of the town of Sidon. The council adopted several measures to confront this grave situation.

'ARAFAT TO VISIT INDIA ON 'FRIDAY NEXT'

BK261113 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Mar (AFP)--India has decided to accord full diplomatic status to the office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation already functioning here. Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao also announced in Parliament today that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had been invited to pay "an official friendly visit" to India. Mr 'Arafat's two-day visit is to begin on Friday next.

Mr Rao noted that India was among the first countries, outside the Arab world, to recognise the PLO and to permit it to open an office in 1975. He expressed the hope, in a statement, that Mr 'Arafat's proposed visit would "symbolise not merely Indo-Palestinian friendship but also Indo-Arab solidarity". He recalled that India had consistently supported the Palestinian cause in the UN and other international forums. "Granting full diplomatic status to the PLO, therefore, is but another logical step," he said. Mr Rao said India "continues to maintain that no comprehensive settlement of the West Asian problem is possible without involvement of the PLO as an equal partner in negotiations."

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF CALLS FOR ARAB MILITARY UNITY

JN252053 Doha QNA in Arabic 2025 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has reiterated the Palestinian revolution's support for the principles of the Lebanese accord announced by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. These principles underline the need for Lebanon's unity and Arabism as well as punishment of any one dealing with the zionist enemy, in addition to Lebanon's respect for the agreements concluded with the Palestinian revolution.

During his meeting with the Palestinian community in Abu Dhabi this evening, Salah Khalaf called for the establishment of military unity between Iraq, Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement so that this unity will form an axis of steadfastness on the northern and eastern fronts with the Zionist enemy. He added that such unity will open the door for the Palestinian people to exercise their military role on their territory.

He welcomed the French stand as expressed by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, in which he confirmed the Palestinian people's right to determine their destiny. Abu Iyad called for supporting Syria, which is being exposed to a fierce offensive aimed at dividing it into sectarian statelets that will provide a natural atmosphere for Israel's security and stability.

He called on the Arab oil states to reduce their oil production in order to stress the importance of the oil wealth and its role in supporting the Arab nation's struggle and so that this reduction will also be a reply to the U.S. stands toward the Arab nation, the last of which was its withdrawal of support for the UN Security Council resolution on the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Abu Iyad appealed to the Arab states to grant the Palestinians recognized passports in order to solve the acute humane problem from which the Palestinians are suffering in several Arab states.

PLO OFFICIAL ATTACKS U.S. SUPPORT FOR SETTLEMENTS

JN2608?8 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 80 p 18 JN

[Nabil 'Amr report]

[Excerpts] 'Abu al-Jawad Salih, PLO Executive Committee, [was interviewed] concerning the Zionist crimes in the occupied land and the vicious Zionist settlement plans in Hebron. In an exclusive interview with the AD-DUSTUR correspondent, 'Abd al-Jawad Salih said that the PLO will take all the necessary measures to curb the Zionist crimes that are being committed against the steadfast Arab people in the occupied land.

He added that the Zionist expansionist plan is linked with the statement made by U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale yesterday in which he declared the Zionist entity's right to settle anywhere it likes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. 'Abd al-Jawad Salih said that the Begin government's decision and Mondale's statement constitute a new image of the Camp David plot aimed at striking at the Arab nation's struggle and the Palestinian people.

Criticizing the oil countries, 'Abd al-Jawad Salih said that the Arab funds which are being squandered in the U.S. banks are the same that are funding and arming the Zionist entity and are being used to build the settlements in the holy land. He called upon the Arab nation to impose its will and to break relations with the United States in order to impose respect for the Arab nation and protect its interests. He added that the Arab leaders are requested more now than at any time before to meet at the highest level to determine practical measures bound to stop the Zionist-U.S. arbitrary measures in Palestine.

ALGERIAN, PLO LEADERS MEET IN DAMASCUS 23 MAR

JN240635 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid met at the guest palace last night with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended on the Algerian side by Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui, Political Bureau member and FLN party coordinator; Mohamed Ben Yahia, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs; Col Abdallah Belhouchet, Political Bureau member and inspector general of the People's National Army; Mohamed Amir, Political Bureau member and chairman of the party committee for social affairs; Ahmed Ali Ghazali, Central Committee member and minister of public works; and Sulayman Hoffman, Central Committee member and head of the party foreign relations committee.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman; Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member; and Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member.

During the 90-minute meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest and expediting the convocation of the Steadfastness and Confrontation summit in light of the stage's challenges and requisites and the explosive situation in southern Lebanon. The two sides reviewed the brilliant steadfastness of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories and the means to strengthen the relations between the PLO and Algeria.

President Bendjedid reiterated Algeria's tenacious and solid support for the Palestinian revolution in its valiant struggle for thwarting the Camp David plot, and for the Arab front of steadfastness in the northern front to enable it to face the imperialist-Zionist pressures and threats. The two sides' views were identical on all issues discussed during the meeting in which a spirit of struggling brotherhood prevailed.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S VISIT

NC220841 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The PLO and the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] have expressed their definite desire to develop relations of friendship between the Palestinian and Portuguese peoples and to strengthen the existing ties of friendship and solidarity between both organizations. A press statement issued yesterday at the end of a visit by a PCP delegation under PCP Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal emphasized the need for Portugal's support for the Palestinian issue and its recognition of the PLO as a basic condition for strengthening Arab-Portuguese relations. A PLO delegation will visit Portugal in the future on the basis of an invitation by the PCP.

AGENDA FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD REPORTED

LD251102 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 25 (KUNA)--Preparations are underway here for the forthcoming Islamic conference, AL-ANBA' newspaper said Tuesday. The conference will open next month in Islamabad and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will lead the Kuwaiti delegation.

Topping of the conference agenda will be the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The conference will outline an Islamic move to ensure the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that Moslem country, the paper said. The conference will also discuss coordination of Islamic efforts to solve the problems of the Palestinians and the occupation of Jerusalem. Discussions at the conference will include means of preserving the cultural and historical heritage in Jerusalem, dangers of Zionism, racial discrimination and problems of Uganda refugees.

The Islamic conference will also discuss an international agreement for protection against the use of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear free zone in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. Economic assistance to Djibouti and Comoro Islands, as well as the formation of a panel of Islamic legislators, will also be discussed.

The conference will review cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and will adopt resolutions to confront information campaigns against Islam, the paper added. In the field of economy, the conference will review the international economic situation the role of the Arabs and plans for the future. Other topics on the agenda will include food security, technical training in Moslem countries, and projects for two Islamic universities in Niger and Uganda.

ARAB LEAGUE TO DISCUSS ARAB ECONOMIC STRATEGY

JN240939 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Mar 80 pp 1, 16 JN

[Telephone interview given by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to JNA correspondent Musa 'Abd as-Salam--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Following the 10th Arab summit conference in Tunisia, you said that this summit was organizational, organizing our resources and capabilities to confront two dangers: the danger of the Camp David accord and that of Zionism, which is trying to spread its hegemony on the Arabs and the Arabs' wealth by means of Camp David. What do you expect from the next summit conference in Amman?

[Answer] The next summit conference in Amman will be one devoted to the all-round Arab economic strategy. During the 10th summit in Tunisia, the Arab leaders decided to devote the 11th summit conference, which will be held in Amman in November, to discussing the economic issue. Hence, this summit acquires special importance concerning the discussion of all economic issues. This also reflects the big importance the Arab leaders are attaching to economic cooperation in its capacity as the mainstay for Arab solidarity.

[Question] How far has the Arab-European dialog gone, and what about Arab-African relations?

[Answer] The Arab and European sides have agreed in principle to resume their dialog. We explained to our friends in Europe that our objective behind the dialog is not only to obtain political support for our just cause, foremost being the Palestinian issue--though naturally we expect this kind of support--but also we seek to build cultural cooperation with Europe.

As for Arab-African cooperation, we are determined to develop, support and protect this cooperation against all setbacks. I recently met with the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity and discussed with him the scope of this cooperation and the ways to reactivate and support it.

[Question] How do you assess the French stand on the Palestinian problem, and how can the Arab League support this move and bring the other European states into this move?

[Answer] This stand emanates from ethical values, foremost of which is the need to establish justice and peace. This stand is characterized by courage and clarity concerning recogntion of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The importance of this stand has been increased, especially when it received the approval of the entire European group.

WORLD ISLAMIC CONGRESS MEETS IN CYPRUS

For reportage on the proceedings of the World Islamic Congress currently meeting in the Turkish Federated State of Cyrpus, see the International Affairs section of the 25th March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

KUWAIT

U.S. STATEMENTS ON PALESTINE SUPPORT 'ENEMY LINE'

LD231443 Kuwait KUNA in English 1134 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 23 (KUNA)--Kuwait Sunday described the attitude of the United States towards the Palestinian problem and the status of Jerusalem as "well known."

State Minister and Acting Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said the latest U.S. statements "unfortunately support the enemy line" and we hope they would not contradict the point of view of the world community regarding the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories including the city of Jerusalem.

Husayn praised the attitudes of France and other European countries regarding the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem. These countries are declaring a better understanding of the problem and seeking a just and permanent solution that will ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in self determination and in establishing a state on their national soil.

Commenting on the attitude of the Japanese Government towards the Arab cause, Husayn said Japanese officials are slow in taking decisions and they always seek to maintain what they consider to be a balance in their policies to safeguard their interests.

OIL MINISTER: NEW OIL CONTRACTS ENFORCE ARAB BOYCOTT

LD230908 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 23 March--The newspaper AL-QABAS today quotes Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah as saying that Kuwait will accept no negotiations over the new conditions it has laid down for the sale of its crude oil and that those who do not like these conditions could go elsewhere for their oil purchases. He added that the oil minister cannot but lay down the conditions and ask the purchasers to approve them and conclude contracts according to them. We have no other alternative, he added.

The paper says that a number of buyers, whom it does not name, have in the past few days signed the new contracts and that other contracts were about to be signed. Representatives of the oil companies, including those of the three main companies which buy Kuwaiti oil--BP, the Gulf [word indistinct] and British-Dutch Shell, who came to Kuwait to sign new contracts "were in unenviable condition" during their talks with the officials here. For they had no option other than the new conditions which were further strengthened by Kuwait's decision to cut its oil production by 25 percent, to 1.5 million barrels a day on 1 April.

AL-QABAS lists eight conditions which it says are embodied in the new contracts which give Kuwait new advantages and freedom for movement and maneuvering. These include, according to the paper, Kuwait's freedom to change prices and volumes according to any new conditions that develop in the market and to reduce the validity of contracts with its main customers from 5 to 2 and 1/2 years and to ban trading with Kuwaiti oil after purchase.

It also says that the contracts provide for following the sales of oil to insure that the oil actually reaches the original buyers and for committing the companies to sell the oil to the country mentioned in the contract and cutting the period of settlement of oil costs from 90 days to 30 days. The new conditions, according to the paper, also provide that buyers should observe the Arab boycott regulations, including the boycott of Israel, South Africa and Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. They also provide for giving Kuwait a share in the oil refining operation.

The Kuwaiti oil minister stated that Kuwait plans to refine half of its oil production over the next 4 years.

According to the paper, informed oil circles expect the new conditions to eliminate small importers from the group of Kuwaiti oil customers and cause a loss to major buyers of 300,000 barrels per day from their total daily supplies of 1.3 million barrels per day.

AL-WATAN EXPECTS AS-SADAT TO SUFFER SAME FATE AS SHAH

LD250914 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--AL-WATAN here today (?draws) a comparison between the former shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who yesterday arrived in Cairo, apparently as the final stage in his search for a refuge, and his host the Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. In its editorial it says that the shah, whose trial for crimes against his people is demanded by the authorities in his country, has enjoyed the backing of the Americans, like President as-Sadat who has sold the Arab cause. It enumerates the aspects of similarity between the pursued former leader and President as-Sadat and expects the latter to suffer the same fate as that of the shah.

It says: "The people of Egypt have a long and deep-rooted history, and their glorious revolutions are innumerable against the tyrants and colonialists, hence it will one day not be a surprise when As-Sadat, like his Iranian tyrant friend, seeks refuge for himself, that is if he gets the opportunity to look for refuge, because the memory of the Egyptian people is very long."

PDRY

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES BULGARIAN TELEVISION CHIEF

LD260856 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, this evening received at his office Comrade Ivan Slavkov, deputy minister of culture and director of television in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who is currently visiting the PDRY. During the meeting, which was attended by brother Hasan as-Sallami, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Broadcasting and Television, there was a cordial discussion on a number of issues relevant to the development of cultural cooperation and information exchanges between Democratic Yemen and People's Bulgaria.

In his discussion with the Bulgarian deputy minister of culture and director of television, the brother prime minister expressed satisfaction at the growth and development of friendship and cooperation between Democratic Yemen and People's Bulgaria.

He expressed appreciation for the latter's cooperation and solidarity with the struggle of the Yemeni people and the Arab peoples for national liberation and social progress.

Comrade Ivan expressed appreciation for the progressive achievements and transformations realized in Democratic Yemen and hailed the strengthening and promotion of relations between the Yemeni and Bulgarian peoples.

QATAR

AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAYS VISIT

Arrival 24 Mar

JN240923 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 24 March--Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade and Resources Minister John Douglas Anthony arrived in Doha today from Riyadh on a 2-day visit to Qatar within his tour of several Arab countries. Mr Anthony's visit to Qatar aims at strengthening bilateral relations and increasing trade, technical cooperation and cooperation in developing agriculture in Qatar.

Meets Amir

JN241015 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0910 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 24 March--Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received in Doha this morning John Douglas Anthony, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade and resources. The meeting was attended by Qatari Minister of Commerce and Economy Shaykh Nasir ibn Khalid Al Thani, the Australian ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Kamal 'Ali Salih, chairman of the Qatari Chamber of Commerce.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of developing them in all fields, especially in the trade, economic and industrial fields.

Comment on Talks

OW251405 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 80 OW

[Excerpt] The deputy prime minister, Mr Anthony, says he has been told for the second time of fears among Arabian Peninsula countries about Soviet aggression. In a statement released in Canberra, Mr Anthony said he had received the latest warning from the ruler of the Gulf State of Qatar on his arrival from Saudi Arabia. Mr Anthony is touring the region to try to develop Australia's agricultural, trade and technological links.

He said his talks with Qatar's amir had underlined again the deep concern of the Arab nations about Soviet expansion. Mr Anthony said the amir felt the Soviets were on the move and that instability in Iran and the invasion of Afghanistan could be the forerunner of further direct Soviet military action.

The minister said he was confident that Australia and Qatar would soon conclude an agreement on trade and technical and economic cooperation. Plans for a long-term wheat deal had been discussed, and talks had also been held on a proposal by the Australian Overseas Project Corporation for a 10-year program to develop vegetables, cereals and animal husbandry.

Departure 25 Mar

JN251625 Doha QNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 25 March--Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade and Resources Minister John Douglas Anthony and the delegation accompanying him left Doha for Muscat today at the end of a 2-day visit to Qatar. While here, the Australian minister held talks with Qatari officials on various fields of cooperation between Qatar and Australia, particularly the commercial, economic, industrial and agricultural spheres.

SAUDI ARABIA

SHAYKH YAMANI WARNS OF 'CATASTROPHE' DUE TO OIL SHORTAGE

LD251332 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1410 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[By Steve Levinson, PA economics correspondent]

[Text] Saudi Arabia's oil miniter, Shaykh Yamani, warned today that the world was facing "catastrophe" because of impending energy shortages. And he called in London for an international programme to save energy and develop new sources to move the world "away from the edge of an abyss." Speaking at the annual convention of the Institute of Directors at the Royal Albert Hall, Shaykh Yamani said also that Saudi Arabic ould not go on indefinitely using its production of oil to save the world from energy shortages.

But his starkest warning was that the world was running out of oil. "It should be recognised that oil, which is the most preferred source of energy in the world, is depleting at an alarming rate," he said. "Even if its production and consumption do run at constant rates with zero growth, oil resources which are currently sufficient to meet world requirements for 30 years will steadily be reduced every year by about six months sufficiency in the least.

"This inexorable process of gradual depletion commenced unnoticeably only a few years ago, when world reserve discoveries reached their plateau. In the coming few years it may visibly snowball in a move toward an irreversible dilemma which will reach its climax with the not very distant exhaustion of those reserves.

"Saudi Arabia has so far been able to delay this abysmal prospect by using its abundant production as a palliative to thwart shortages in world supplies. Most observers believe, however, that this unrequired and sacrificial attitude on its part will not go on indefinitely."

Shaykh Yamani said Western technology had so far failed to produce alternatives to oil and he also condemned "indecisiveness" in switching to alternative sources of energy.

He said all civilisations had been based on fair and constructive use of resources. "Should man's civilisation of the 20th century abandon these principles, the forces of destruction and annihilation may be unleashed, critically reducing the chances of this world's survival." Shaykh Yamani said that despite this he still believed it was possible to develop a programme to avoid the abyss. He suggested a six point programme:

1. Rich and poor countries should jointly adopt a just scheme for distribution of world energy consumption. As part of this scheme energy-deprived countries should get financial and technical help to develop their own energy resources.

2. Energy conservation measures in the industrial world should be stepped up, with the aim of reducing current consumption for an extended period.

3. Decisions must be taken now on developing other energy sources and environmental objections to these developments should be removed. "Although such a move can be a bit hazardous it does not presage a disaster, as commonly claimed," he said. Impending energy shortfalls on the other hand would bring about a world catastrophe.

4. International agreement should be reached on agencies to be assigned the task of energy development.

5. Governments should adapt their fiscal policies to divert resources into investment in energy and away from current consumption.

6. The attitudes of the Western world's media should be changed to stress the relative scarcity of oil and the urgent need to limit its use.

The shaykh added that unless these proposals were put into practice the world must be prepared to face a recurrence of the events of 1979, "but with increasingly severe consequences with each repetition."

Turning to the events of the past year Shaykh Yamani said the increase in the price of oil, although substantial, was still manageable. Continued growth in the West "demonstrated beyond doubt the ability of their economies to absorb oil price increases without much difficulty."

Answering questions after his speech Shaykh Yamani confirmed that Saudi Arabia would keep up its oil production for the coming quarter. But looking further ahead he said the Saudi attitude would be affected by other matters, like whether they could get a realistic return on their investments in the West.

The oil minister also argued that the real danger to Middle East stability came from the failure to solve the problems of the Palestinians. "Unless we solve this the whole world is going to face a very serious disaster."

UAE

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF ENDS VISIT 26 MAR

JN260854 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, left here for Manama today at the end of a 3-day visit to the UAE. In a predeparture statement, the Palestininian official said that his talks with UAE officials were useful and fruitful and that the UAE's solid support for the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian revolution on all levels has been reiterated. He said that the talks dealt with the developments in the Palestinian issue on the Arab and international levels.

AL-ITTIHAD ASSAILS AS-SADAT SPEECH

LD241455 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Mar 80 LD

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] President as-Sadat yesterday launched an attack, or rather insults, in every direction and gave vent to his anger against the Arab countries and Arab leaders, using his well-known terminology to describe them. He also attacked the Egyptian opposition, and even President Giscard d'Estaing was not spared this vituperation, despite the fact that until recently, he was one of the leaders whom President as-Sadat described as "dear friend."

The only party on which As-Sadat showered praise was Israel, which, he said, "fulfills its obligations with honor." Nobody knows, except As-Sadat himself, what "honorable" obligations Israel is fulfilling. Is it the obligation to continue to occupy a large part of Sinai as well as the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan? Or is it the obligation to colonize the land and evict Arab citizens from their homes and lands? Or is it the obligation to Judaize Jerusalem and obliterate its Arab character? Or is it the obligation of daily Zionist defiance with three no's--no return to the 1967 borders, no giving up Jerusalem and no Palestinian state? Apart from all these there is no objection to talking about peace as long as such peace enjoys the Egyptian president's approval and blessing.

What is grave indeed is that As-Sadat's outbursts of abuse or praise do not stop at statements and declarations but are also translated into concessions on Arab and Egyptian rights and into gains for Israel. In his speech As-Sadat affirmed yesterday that the normalization of relations with Israel will not be halted. By this he means that the failure of the autonomy talks, even in the way he understands them, will not hamper the process of normalization, despite the fact that he recently said that there will be different calculations if the negotiations fail and that some of his aides have spoken about the possibility of returning to the Geneva conference or about the call for another international conference.

Despite the fact postponing or halting the noramlization process is the one weapon remaining in As-Sadat's hands in order to retrieve his many previous concessions and retreats, yet it appears that there is no end to his concessions and retreats.

In the final analysis, the Israeli flag, as AD-DA'WAH magazine stressed the day before yesterday, will not fly in Cairo for long because Islam is awakening there and Arabism is bound to bury it in its soil.

YAR

OFFICIAL: USSR-PDRY TREATY COMPLICATES UNITY EFFORTS

JN221901 Doha QNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Doha, 22 March--Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the YAR Consultative Council and of the People's Assembly, has described relations between his country and Saudi Arabia as fraternal, good and strong. He denied rumors about differences between the two countries, stressing that these rumors are groundless and are attempts at cheap intrigue and at fishing in muddy waters.

In an exclusive statement to QNA today, he talked about the steps in achieving unity between the two parts of Yemen, noting that unity actually exists between the two peoples, who are considered one people, believing in one religion, living in one homeland and having the same habits, traditions and ancestry.

Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, who is currently visiting Doha, affirmed that work is continuing for the attainment of unity between the two parts of Yemen. He expressed his conviction that this unity could have been achieved long ago had there been no Soviet-South Yemeni treaty. In his opinion, this treaty complicates the situation and stands as an obstacle to the achievement of Yemeni unity.

Talking about the steps necessary to achieve national unity in Yemen, Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar said that the state gives all sides the chance to work for the country's progress and prosperity, without imposing any restrictions or conditions and offering an atmosphere of complete freedom.

He said that the state has asked some independent figures to hold a dialog with sides that hold varying viewpoints, in order to discuss their demands, which are focused on the release of some prisoners and the guaranteeing of freedoms. He affirmed that the state has responded to these demands in order to achieve national unity.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CONTINUES MEETINGS

JN251436 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The joint economic committee of the two parts of the homeland resumed its meetings under brothers Muhammad Hizam ash-Shawhati, minister of economy, and Nasr Nasir 'Ali, minister of labor and civil service in the southern part of the homeland. During this meeting, a discussion was concluded on the issue of trade exchange and benefits from the expertise of both parts of the homeland in the fields of industry and fishing.

The brother economy minister and head of the northern part of the homeland on the committee hosted a luncheon in honor of the head and members of the southern side in the committee, which was attended by several officials.

FRENCH OIL COMPANY DENIES MAJOR DISCOVERY IN REPUBLIC

WA241308 London REUTER 1125 GMT 24 Mar 80 WA

[Text] Paris, March 24, REUTER--The state-owned French Petroleum Company (CFP) today denied weekend reports that it had made a major oil discovery in North Yemen. A company spokesman said CFP did not even have exploration permits in the Arab country, and he knew of no new oilfield discoveries there.

He was commenting on a Kuwaiti newspaper report yesterday that CFP had discovered an oilfield in North Yemen which could prove to be the world's fifth largest with an estimated reserve of five billion barrels of medium quality crude oil.

DOCTORS TO OPERATE ON SHAH WITHIN 'NEXT FEW DAYS'

Location of Cancer

NC252030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--The results of the medical examinations and analyses made on the former shah of Iran at Al-Ma'adi Armed Forces Hospital yesterday and today have confirmed the need to remove his spleen in the next few days in order to eliminate the cancer that has spread in the lymph nodes, of which the spleen is a part.

Brig Gen Dr Fu'ad Nur, head of the radiology section at Al-Ma'adi Hospital and one of the doctors supervising the treatment of the shah, said that the presence of cancer in the lymph organ erodes and kills blood vessels as well as white corpuscles in the shah's body. In a statement to MENA, Dr Nur said that the presence of cancer in the lymph organ also leads to a blood shortage, which is being remedied until the op ration takes place.

Dr Nur said that the Al-Ma'adi Hospital reports are identical to the reports of the doctors who were previously treating the shah. He said that modern equipment to compensate for the blood and to check such cases is available in Al-Ma'adi Hospital and has been used with complete success in operations similar to the shah's. He stressed that the team of Egyptian doctors will do their utmost to insure that the operation succeeds.

A French specialist working in the Saint Louis Hospital in France, who has been treating the shah for a long time, is scheduled to arrive in Cairo tomorrow to join the team of Egyptian doctors.

AL-AHRAM Reports Condition

NC261022 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 26 (AFP)--The condition of the deposed shah of Iran, who has a fever and blood deficiencies, was preventing immediate surgery to remove his enlarged spleen, the daily AL-AHRAM said here today, quoting hospital sources.

The sources said the operation was essential in the next few days, but added that doctors had delayed operating because of the shah's current temperature of 38.4 degrees centigrade (101 fahrenheit) and his weakness caused by the low level of blood platelets caused by the enlarged spleen.

It was announced in Houston, Texas, that one of the shah's American doctors, Michael DeBakey left Houston last night to fly to Cairo. He was accompanied by another surgeon, an anaesthetist, two pathologists, a nurse and a transfusion expert, a spokesman for Dr. DeBakey said.

A French doctor who treated the shah before his exile was also expected here during the day to join the 15-strong Egyptian team.

The operation to remove a spleen is quite common in Egypt since enlargement of the organ is a side effect of bilharzia, wide-spread disease here.

Yesterday the shah stayed in his room in the private wing of the Al-Ma'adi Hospital for tests, including electrocardiography, encephalography, and spleen tests. Today he was expected to undergo general radiography to trace any possible new cancerous developments in the lymph system, sources said.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES APPLIED SCIENCES ASSOCIATION

NC251120 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1007 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Speech made by President Anwar as-Sadat at ceremony held by the Applied Sciences Association on 25 March 1980--live]

[Text] In the name of God, my sons and daughters, members of the Applied Sciences Association: I praise God that we meet today after your association has been established and after the formation of the family of the Applied Sciences Association in Egypt. This association has been formed in order to work for the bigger family; namely, Egypt, and in order to look after the members of this Association of Applied Sciences.

I am delighted with this meeting, because for many years some quarters tried to reduce Egypt's values and its tradition. They instilled rancor in our hearts so as to divide our society or so that a contemptible class difference alien to Egypt would arise in our society. The reason is that Egypt has always been the country of tolerance, brotherhood and love. Therefore, I was extremely delighted when I asked the dean of engineers about all those past prejudices. He assured me that this matter has finally ended [applause], adding that all are now working in the spirit of the one family. He also told me that you are participating in all the projects undertaken by your brothers in the Association of Engineers.

This is Egypt. This is the Egypt we know and which we want the world to know. We also want the very few among us to know this Egypt, after trends of class differences or discrepancies within the one family have obsessed a very few sick-minded persons.

I was even more delighted when your dean welcomed our guest, the shah [applause]. It want to tell you that by hosting and protecting the shah, we are merely expressing Egypt's tolerant spirit and Egypt's spirit which knows love and shuns rancor [Applause and shouts of 'God is greater!'] As you are aware, some brother Arab rulers moved in an attempt to isolate Egypt and in another attempt to transfer these maladies of rancor, ignorance and jealousy to the Islamic world. They thought that if they held a meeting, passed a resolution or suspended Egypt's membership, as they putit, then Egypt would be isolated.

Egypt has not been isolated and, with God's help, it never will be isolated. [Applause]

They were the ones who isolated themselves. They isolated themselves in their own grudges. In what state are they now? In Saudi Arabia, the Mecca incidents--and what they signify and above all the fact that they happened in the holy shrine--are an indication of God's wrath.

In the Gulf there is fear of the Iranian revolution and there are outbiddings. Their spirit is shaken.

In Syria there is civil war. The president of Syria is using tanks and artillery against his own people. These tanks and guns should be in the battlefields, not used against the will of the people.

In Iraq, people are dragged through the streets and all that is deplorable to the spirit of Arabism and Islam, ranging from repression to plotting, is happening there.

In Libya, well, one of the things I remember about the shah of Iran during the October War is that the man did his duty toward the people of Egypt before, during and after the battle. [applause]

I recall that 2 days before the battle broke out, that is on Thursday 4 October, 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the then prime minister of Libya, was here. I asked him to cut short his visit and return immediately to Libya to inform Al-Qadhdhafi that the battle was about to begin and that I wanted two things from Libya, if Libya wished to do its duty. The first thing was that the Tobruk port should be an alternative port if Alexandria and Marsa Matruh were hit, and [the second] was that Libya should supply us with four million tons of oil during the period our oil wells would be closed. At that time, you may recall, these wells were in the Red Sea, that is--in the heart of the battle.

On Thursday 4 October, Jallud left and informed the colonel and then sent me word that they agreed to make Tobruk an alternative port in the event Alexandria and Marsa Matruh were hit, and to send us four million tons over a period of 1 full year.

I recall that after the battle, with the oil wells still closed following the cease-fire--we still had not reopened the oil wells and a renewal of the fighting was possible for any reason--our oil reserves were for less than 15 days for both the army and the people; in case of a battle breaking out this reserve would have been consumed in 2 hours by the armed forces; you know that the loaf of bread is produced with the use of mazut [diesel oil]. As we were going through a very critical period of anxiety, I sent an oil tanker to Libya to bring the four million tons in stages over a period of 1 year. We actually did not need it for a period of a whole year because a few months later we reopened our own oil taps. It was necessary, however, for our planning to be wise and complete so that the people's interests would not be endangered, whether in the armed forces or on the domestic front and so that the consumption of oil and fuel would not be subject to a any shock. We sent the oil tanker to Libya. It returned empty. We sent it back, and again it returned empty, so I saw no alternative except to contact the shah of Iran. I contacted him.

According to the petroleum minister, immediately on receiving my cable, the shah of Iran contacted oil tankers in the high seas and changed their destination to Egypt. [Applause] This is a little of the much which this man has done for the sake of Egypt and its people. He ordered that the destination of 600,000 tons of petroleum be changed after the ships had already set sail. He changed their destination to Alexandria. A quantity of 600,000 tons arrived immediately in order that the Egyptian people and armed forces might not suffer a crisis. This is one of dozens of examples of what this man did.

Therefore, I want to tell them in Iran that we will never pay attention to this rabid shouting. We are not against the people of Iran or the revolution of the people of Iran. On the contrary, we have recognized the revolution. Our reward was that Khomeyni severed diplomatic relations with us. His answer to our recognition of the revolution was the severance of diplomatic relations.

When we honor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the former shah of Iran, we are actually honoring all the genuine Islamic values of the 800 million Muslims and of our Arab brothers whom God has honored by Islam. They were nothing before Islam. We the Arabs were nothing before Islam. Islam came and God almighty honored us by revealing the Koran in our language, that of the Arabs, and by sending the last of the prophets from our nation, that of the Arabs. Islam is the source of dignity of the Arabs, who were unknown before Islam. [Applause] This is why we are now returning to the roots. The Arab States League will become the Islamic-Arab league. [Applause] It will become an Islamic-Arab league which will elevate the word of Islam and Arabism.

The word of Islam elevates the word of heaven always. Islam, Christianity and Judaism are in fact one message--the message of heaven. [Applause] When we return to Islam, we are actually returning to the messages of heaven.

We tell our Arab brothers: This is Egypt. You have tried to isolate it, but each of you was isolated among his people. The Arab world has shaken since the severance of relations. It is still shaking because of this rift and because the people have become aware of the stand of their rulers. What happened in our sacred mosque in Mecca was the most serious thing that ever happened. Comedies are now enacted everywhere--in the lands of Syria, Iraq, Libya, Algeria and in South Yemen. We tell them all that we will return to the origin--Islam and man. We will return to the Muslim and Arab man who is secure in his safety, dignity, security and right. Among those who severed their relations with us no Arab ruler can claim now that there is security, safety, freedom of opinion or human dignity in his country, as the Judge [God] wanted for Islam and in all the heavenly messages.

Therefore, the Islamic-Arab league will be set up for the sake of the Muslim man and the Arab man, not for the sake of a few rulers who are exploiting their people and whose feet are trembling now in their countries. It will be set up for the sake of Man, as is happening now in Egypt and where the family of the Applied Sciences Association is now sitting. Previously, I had visited the family of traders, the family of sociologists and the family of doctors. They are all families which meet under the umbrella of the great Egyptian family. These families have rallied around justice, human rights, security and safety and sacrifice on the part of each one of us so that Egypt will achieve prosperity and progress for its future generations.

Here in Egypt the Egyptian family is composed of the various families that I have mentioned. We are now attending a meeting of one of these families. The Egyptian family says: No one of you [the Arab rulers] had the courage to make a decision regarding a Muslim brother like the shah of Iran. No one had the courage and dignity to stand up and say that Islam is the religion of love and not revenge, the religion of brotherhood and not hatred as called for by those rulers in Iran or those juvenile rulers around us in the Arab nation.

We say with full force and to the whole world: Yes, we apply Islam. For 1,000 years Egypt with its Al-Azhar has been the protector of Islam. Until doomsday Egypt, God willing, will remain the protector of all the values of Islam and of all the values of the messages of heaven, which call for love, fraternity and discard of hatred. Not out of obstinacy but out of its genuineness, its heritage and its privileged position endowed by God, Egypt will remain, God willing, the leader of the Islamic nation, as it is also the leader of the Arab nation. [Applause]

Brothers and sisters, the path is long but we are at the beginning of the correct course. Our fate and decision are in our hands. We own our will. Therefore, all of us must contribute toward construction with equal responsibility, so that Egypt may remain forever strong and so that it may remain a pioneer and leader of the Islamic world and the Arab nation, regardless of what the others may attempt.

We will work hard and will bear grudges against no one. However, let them know that their coffers are full today because of the blood of our sons and martyrs in the battle of the Arabs--the battle of Sinai. Let them remember this. We do not say this as an act of favor or because of a grudge, but we will always remind them of it so that they may know that their gold and coffers can never buy the will of the simplest man in Egypt.

God almighty has granted us bountiful and unlimited resources in this country. He has granted us these resources so that we may sweat and work in order to raise the edifice. For this reason, I am happy whenever I meet with one of my families--these Egyptians who are building their country with sweat and struggle. I am happy whenever I meet with one of the families of the Egyptian family.

I congratulate you on the emergence of your association's work and on the establishment of your association. I hope--and this has been my aspiration--to see a new style beginning in the art of architecture in Egypt. This style would derive from our historical background and civilization in order to bring into relief the new character of Egypt. This is because Egypt is immortal through its pharaonic tradition as well as through its Arab tradition.

Therefore, God willing, I want your association to be established or rather, the establishment of your association to be an expression of this new line [applause]--the Egypt of the new construction [applause] and the Egypt of the Islamic-Arab-pharaonic architecture. I want this style to be our new style just as, God willing, our edifice will be firm and well-entrenched. However, the problem of land is no problem at all. [applause] It is necessary for you to begin to reach an understanding with your brothers of the Engineers Association in order to use this new application as an actual meeting point of the personality of the modern Egypt and of modern architecture.

All I can tell you is that I pledge to you before God and before our people to continue to work, as long as I enjoy your confidence, with complete impartiality [applause]. I will place all the complete facts before you. [cheers for the long life of As-Sadat] I will continue to work as long as I enjoy your confidence, and to inform you of all the complete facts, regardless of whether these facts are of an internal, Arab, foreign or Islamic nature--just as you have always known me to do. I will always place the facts before you. This is because not I, alone, am responsible for building. You and your brothers of the other families of Egypt assume the same responsibility I bear. This time, it is imperative that construction emerges at the hands of all of us, through the sincerity of all of us, through the impartiality of all of us, and through the adherence of all of us to the spirit of the family, to the spirit of the family, to the spirit of Islam, and to the spirit of the various religions. It is imperative for us to adhere consistently to the divine missions so that the new edifice of Egypt will emerge--while being devoid of all faults--so that it will be firmed, entrenched and lofty, God willing, throughout time. Peace be with you.

U.S. ENVOY LINOWITZ ARRIVES IN CAIRO FROM ISRAEL

To Attend Autonomy Talks

NC251522 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--Ambassador Sol Linowitz, personal envoy of President Carter and head of the U.S. side to the autonomy negotiations, arrived in Cairo at 1615 today from Israel.

Linowitz will lead the U.S. side to the ninth round of autonomy discussions which will begin Thursday in Alexandria.

As-Sadat Meets Linowitz

NC251755 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that he has exchanged views with Ambassador Sol Linowitz, who briefed him on his talks in Israel. As-Sadat briefed Linowitz on his stand toward the latest developments in the area.

President as-Sadat said that he will pay a 3-day visit to the United States on 8 April during which he will meet with President Carter, congressmen and senators. He will then return immediately to Cairo.

Asked whether Linowitz informed him about any progress in his talks in Israel, President as-Sadat said: Let us wait until after the Alexandria talks. This came in a statement President as-Sadat made following his meeting at Al-Qanatir resthouse this evening with U.S. envoy Sol Linowitz.

Linowitz arrived at the president's resthouse at 1705 today, there As-Sadat received him. They then held a 1-hour meeting that was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

Cairo Radio Report

NC251938 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Following his 1-hour discussions tonight with Ambassador Sol Linowitz, U.S. President Carter's envoy to the autonomy negotiations, President Anwar as-Sadat said that they exchanged views at the meeting and that President Carter's envoy briefed him on his discussions in Israel. President as-Sadat briefed the U.S. envoy on the latest developments in the area.

The president added: As usual, we agreed to continue the efforts to give new momentum to the peace process. He said that he would meet again with the U.S. envoy at the end of the coming Alexandria meetings to reevaluate the whole situation and that they would also meet during his forthcoming visit to the United States.

At the end of his statement, the president conveyed thanks to President Carter for his continuous efforts for peace.

Answering reporters' questions about his forthcoming visit to the United States, the president said that he would meet with U.S. President Carter and his friends in the Congress.

Linowitz has said that his discussions with Israeli officials madeprogress toward driving forward the peace negotiations before the 26 May deadline and that this progress was not only in procedural matters but also in matters of disagreement. Linowitz said that it was agreed to transfer a series of jurisdictions from the Israeli military rule to the autonomy rule administrations which will be set up in accordance with the negotiations. Linowitz said that he conveyed to the Israeli prime minister Washington's concern over the Israeli Government's decision to establish a Jewish religious school and college in Hebron. He stressed that this decision will not help progress in the autonomy negotiations.

The U.S. envoy added that he had asked the Israeli prime minister to freeze settlement activities in the West Bank and Gaza until 26 May. He said that he had telephone contacts with President Carter who expressed the hope that his current discussions will contribute toward drawing up the bases for the forthcoming Washington talks. Linowitz affirmed that President Carter's discussions with President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin will contribute toward resolving the fundamental issues in the autonomy negotiations over which differences exist between Egypt and Israel.

MENA Reports Further

NC252011 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 March--Asked whether Linowitz informed him about any progress during his talks with Israeli officials, President as-Sadat said: Why don't we wait until after the round of autonomy talks and then we will meet?

After that reporters questioned Sol Linowitz, who replied negatively when asked if he will meet with the shah during his stay in Cairo or if any U.S. official will come to Cairo to meet with him.

Asked about U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale's statement in which he supported the right of the Jews to live in the West Bank and Gaza, Linowitz said that what Mondale said has been said by many before. We believe there should be no restrictions or segregation where any man wants to live. The Jews are free to live anywhere in Gaza or the West Bank. This is what Mondale said but it was not quoted correctly. Mondale has always asserted that everyone is free to live anywhere he wants.

Asked whether he means that there is a difference between settling and living, Linowitz said, Yes, I believe that the ambiguity is due to translation. Mondale was talking about the right to live anywhere.

As for the upcoming summit in Washington among U.S. President Jimmy Carter, President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Linowitz stressed that the meeting will take place next month.

Linowitz further said that the upcoming autonomy talks will not be confined to specifying the issues that will be discussed. We will prepare the atmosphere to achieve progress both in the Washington talks and on other peripheral issues which we will focus on discussing. There are many issues that we will discuss here and we would like to make progress on several of them.

Regarding the security committee which might emerge from the forthcoming autonomy talks, Linowitz said: I had talks with Israeli Prime Minister Begin and I believe that the security question is an important matter.

Concerning the settlements, he said: I did not say that my talks concerning the Israeli settlements failed. I have, however, discussed with Israeli Prime Minister Begin the possibility of freezing the settlements for the period but the matter is subject to discussion.

Regarding the date for concluding the autonomy talks, he said that this is a decision by the parties concerned and that some subjects are still under discussion, including the security question. I do not believe that a so-called security committee will be set up.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BEGIN VIA BEN-ELISAR

NC260922 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--President Anwar as-Sadat today received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The message was handed over to Vice President Husni Mubarak by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Eliyahu Ben-Elisar during a meeting held between them.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES FRENCH PRESIDENT'S ENVOY

NC261111 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this morning received the envoy of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The meeting was attended by the French ambassador in Cairo. The French envoy said that he had handed President as-Sadat a message from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The envoy declined to disclose the contents of the message.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO FIDEL CASTRO

NC260725 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent a message to Cuban leader Fidel Castro in his capacity as the present chairman of the nonalined group. In his message Presiden as-Sadat underlines Egypt's special responsibilities toward the nonalined movement as a founder member and pioneer of this movement and stresses Egypt's commitment to nonalinement as an ideology, policy and course.

President as-Sadat received a message from Fidel Castro last week which was also sent to the leaders of the nonalined countries. In his message Castro conveyed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's complaint about what he called the deployment of imperialist and colonialist military forces on the Libyan borders and interference by certain powers in the internal affairs of the nonalined member states.

The Wednesday issue of AL-AHRAM reports on President as-Sadat's lengthy letter to Dr Fidel Castro. In his letter President as-Sadat points out that it is Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who is contravening the nonalined principles, concentrating foreign forces on his territory and threatening to use and using military force and terrorism in Tunisia, Chad, Morocco, Sudan and Uganda and other countries. This is in addition to Al-Qadhdhafi's interference in the internal affairs of the Palestine Liberation Movement through buying certain elements and terrorizing the movement's leadership to pursue his policy.

AL-AHRAM reports that President as-Sadat has asked Fidel Castro to convey his reply to all the leaders of the nonalined countries in order to decisively settle these problems, which weaken the movement, harm its prestige and respect and deprive its work of the necessary seriousness to develop and enable it to cope with the changing world around.

AL-AHRAM says that in his message President as-Sadat has stressed that Egypt is acting to maintain the unity of the nonalined movement and to preserve it from the deviations threatening it. As-Sadat stressed that the achievement of these political goals requires the following:

1. Honesty and earnestness must characterize the work of the nonalined movement.

2. The nonalined movement must refrain from raising false slogans because history will judge the movement by its accomplishments and not false slogans.

3. The duty of the nonalined movement is to support independence and to spread democracy and respect for human rights.

4. The nonalined movement's action must be based on genuine faith in the unity of its goal and must refrain from practices that might weaken it so that the nonalined countries will not turn consciously or unconsciously into tools in the hands of other powers whose interests conflict with those of the nonalined countries.

The paper says that President Anwar as-Sadat described Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's stands as mindless and showing a lack of vision and of logic and objectivity.

KHALIL MEETS WITH U.S. ENVOY ATHERTON

NC251502 Cairo MENA in English 1432 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 25--Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil received today U.S. Ambassador here Mr. Alfred Atherton.

MENA learned that Dr. Khalil is expected to receive tomorrow in Alexandria personal envoy of U.S. President Carter and head of the U.S. delegation to the autonomy talks Mr. Sol Linowitz.

GHALI MAKES STATEMENT ON UPCOMING AUTONOMY TALKS

NC251552 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stressed that the forthcoming round of autonomy negotiations to be held at the level of the heads of the three Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. delegations Thursday is one of the most crucial, because according to the timetable agreed upon in Washington, the time remaining is rather short. Therefore increased efforts are needed to overcome the current difficulties. These include the definition of the Israeli concept of security, as Israel is trying by all means to limit the powers of the full autonomy rule, while Egypt believes that the full Palestinian autonomy rule should enjoy all powers previously enjoyed by the Israeli military governor, be they legislative, judicial or executive. Egypt also believes that the autonomy rule is a provisional framework to help the Palestinian people achieve their right to self-determination.

In a statement to our correspondent, Dr Butrus said that Egypt adheres to 26 May as the final date for the autonomy negotiations unless it is possible to reach tangible positive results toward Egypt's goal--a comprehensive peace in the Middle East--which would call for the negotiations to continue. However, if no positive result is reached or if the negotations achieve insignificant results, 26 May will be a final date for the negotiations.

AL-BAZ: OBSERVANCE OF TALKS DEADLINE 'IMPERATIVE'

LD261055 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Interview given to Sana' as-Sa'id by Egyptian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz in Cairo--date not given]

[Excerpts] Cairo, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT office--[Question] The autonomy talks are now going through a phase of deadlock. What is the reason? And in whose interest is it?

[Answer] Any deadlock in the situation is not in the interest of any side. It is not in the Palestinian people's interest, because they are the ones who are suffering and living under occupation; it is not in the interest of a comprehensive settlement. In this sense, therefore, it is in the interest of no party. Even if some Israelis believe that it is in their interest to maintain the situation as it is, this is a narrow and shortsighted view and reflects a lack of good judgment, because deadlock will produce many negative and grave results for all the parties, including Israel.

[Question] But the United States appears eager not to arouse Israel's sensitivity with regard to many points, including the West Bank, which is still under Israeli occupation, the settlements and Jerusalem?

[Answer] This is the concern of the United States alone and does not relate to us in any way. As far as we are concerned, the United States is committed to specific stands which it has adopted and which it is obliged to adopt in the future in relation to these questions--whether with regard to the question of settlements or to the status of Jerusalem. Stands are not determined in aberrant statements made here and there on certain domestic occasions but through specific documents and official declarations issued by the U.S. Government, particularly in international forums, foremost of which is the United Nations. This is in addition to the U.S. pledges made on specific occasions, the most important of which is the pledge President Carter made to the People's Assembly before the peace agreement was signed in March 1979, in which he said that he is personally committed, in his capacity as U.S. President, to do everything in his power to solve the Palestinian people's problem in a manner satisfactory to them.

[Question] What is your view on the new European initiative about which much is being said nowadays and which is expected to be put forward after 26 May?

[Answer] We are no less interested than any other state in trying to achieve progress through serious initiatives which do not merely aim at putting a stand on record or at benefitting from it, but which constitute part of an all-embracing concept that will lead to genuine and actual progress, because if the object were merely to add a paper one way or another to the numerous existing documents, then we could have solved the Palestinian problem a long time ago. Therefore this concept, European or otherwise, must be seen on the basis that there could be other, non-European initiatives. It is not right to confine the arena to certain states to the exclusion of others. We must not detract from the importance of the nonalined states, the African states and the Islamic and Asian states.

[Question] Do you not believe that binding yourselves to a specific date for the autonomy talks is an embarrassment, since some Israeli officials believe that your insistence on a specific date puts the three negotiating parties in a difficult position?

[Answer] It is imperative to abide by the set date, because it was not fixed haphazardly. It is very important that each state adhere to its commitment, because if we were to allow the date to slip by without achieving the desired result, then the negotiations would drag on and suffer setbacks.

We believe that the period set for the negotiations is sufficient. Enough progress can be achieved during that period; if we fail to achieve progress in several months, why believe that we can achieve progress in another month or week after that date?

The deadline must therefore be taken very seriously. The Israeli view on the deadline is wrong, and we hope that it will not affect the Israeli stand, otherwise this means that we will enter into a vicious circle of procrastination and delay. This will have grave consequences for all parties.

[Question] If the Palestinians were to accept the proposed 5-year arrangement, would this not answer the question as to whether or not a Palestinian state will be established?

[Answer] Theoretically, this is possible, but from a practical and realistic standpoint there is no doubt that the closer a people come to attaining their legitimate national rights, the more they develop the momentum that will bring them even closer to the achievement of their objective and make the possibilities of a setback very slim.

In other words, the Palestinian people's chances of attaining their natural right to self-determination improve as the Israel occupation recedes and Israeli control of the west area and Gaza ends.

The worst thing would be for the situation to continue as it is now or to deteriorate. There is a possibility that the situation could worsen in view of what is happening; public land is being seized, private ownership is being abused, the number of settlers is increasing, new laws are issued and Israeli laws are being increasingly applied in the West Bank and Gaza. Much could be lost if the current situation continues. Our main idea, however, is to end the current situation and to move in the opposite direction--to diminish Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza and, at the same time, begin applying Palestinian control there.

OFFICIAL TO ANNOUNCE DISCOVERY OF OIL IN WESTERN DESERT

NC230902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0738 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 March--The Weekly AS-SIYASI today reports that the discovery of huge oil resources in Egypt's western desert will be officially announced in the next few weeks. These deposits are sufficient enough to transform Egypt into one of the most important oil exporting countries in the world. The discovery is expected to have great economic and political importance.

PAN-ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE BEGINS 25 MAR

JN251118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 March--The 3-day Pan-Arab People's Conference began here today to discuss the provisions of the national declaration, which is aimed at organizing Arab relations. Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member, presided over the opening of the conference for President Saddam Husayn.

The conference is being attended by delegations representing the Arab national organizations, forces and parties and Arab popular and vocational unions, in addition to several Arab national figures.

During the opening ceremony of the conference, a huge gathering of masses, who rallied around the conference hall and all approaches leading to the Al-Mustansiriyah University, north of Baghdad, were chanting the conference slogan: "No to military alliances and no to foreign bases; all Arab resources should be marshalled for the sake of liberating Palestine."

President Saddam Husayn's speech was read at the opening session by Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member.

The opening session was attended by Shibli al-'Aysami, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, the vice president; several Ba'th Party Regional Command members; members of the Progressive National and Nationalist Front and the heads of the diplomatic missions.

The conference will hold its first working session this evening.

First Working Session

JN251836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 March--The first working session of the Pan-Arab People's Conference began in Baghdad this evening. In this session, the conference will discuss the Ba'th Party's political document concerning the national declaration proposed by President Saddam Husayn on 8 February to organize pan-Arab relations among the Arab states.

Today's meeting was presided over by Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid as-Sa'ih of Jordan, who announced the conference's decision to appoint 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Ghazali from the Egyptian National Movement as rapporteur of the conference. The members of the presiding committee are: the representative of the Socialist Union of People's Forces of Morocco; Mas'ud ash-Shabbi from Tunisia; Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, president of the Arab Journalists Federation; Abu Akram from Palestine; 'Usamah Fakhuri from Lebanon; and 'Abdallah Bardawi from the YAR.

Shaykh as-Sa'ih also announced that the presidential committees during the coming sessions will be elected in turn from among the members of the Arab delegations to the conference.

In the session, Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member, presented to the conference an important document on the national declaration. The document analyzed the current Arab situation and the problems faced by the Arab nation as a result of the imperialist plots. The document also analyzed the current confrontation of strategies in the region and the ever-widening international struggle over foreign interests in the Arab homeland.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES YUGOSLAV MILITARY OFFICIAL

JN251758 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and defense minister, received here today Lt Gen Piolt (?Enver Cemalovic), Yugoslav deputy defense minister and commander of the air force [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the developing cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways to further promote these bonds to serve their joint interests.

The Yugoslav military official arrived in Baghdad yesterday at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Iraq.

HIGHER COMMISSION TO SUPERVISE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

JN251243 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--A higher commission was formed here today to supervise the elections of the National Assembly in Iraq.

The commission is headed by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and includes RCC member and Minister of Local Government 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, Minister of Justice Dr Mundhri Ibrahim ash-Shawi, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid representing the Ba'th Party and 'Aziz 'Aqrawi representing the Progressive Nation and Nationalist Front.

On 15 March, the RCC ratified the National Assembly Law and the Legislative Council Law for the autonomous area of Kurdistan.

BRIEFS

YUGOSLAV BANK GOVERNOR ARRIVES--Baghdad, 24 March--Ksente Bogdev, governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq, to hold talks on financial and economic cooperation in various fields. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN]

ALGERIA'S PRESIDENT BENDJEDID DEPARTS 26 MAR

JN261034 Amman JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 26 March--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the FLN Party, and the delegation accompanying him left Amman this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the Algerian president held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on the current Arab and international situation, the developments in the Palestinian cause, ways to strengthen Arab solidarity, bolstering steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

In a cable he sent to His Majesty King Husayn after departing, Algerian President Bendjedid expressed thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality he had been accorded on the official and popular levels. He praised the ties of brotherhood that bind the Algerian and Jordanian people and the strong relations that exist between the two fraternal countries.

ROMANIAN MINISTER VISITS ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY PROJECT

JN251147 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 80 p 2 JN

[Text] Amman--Ion Stanescu, Romanian minister of state for industrial construction and chairman of the joint Romanian-Jordanian technical and economic cooperation committee, visited the Jordan Electricity Authority yesterday.

During his visit to the authority, the Romanian minister looked over the progress of work on the high-tension lines project which links the southern Amman station with Al-Bayadir, Al-Qatrani, Al-Karak, Ghawr as-Safi, Hasa, Ar-Rashadiyyah and the Ma'an city station.

This project will provide electric power for the potash factories, the cement factory, the phosphate mines and the Governorates of Al-Karak and Ma'an.

Stanescu arrived in Amman last Friday on a visit of several days to Jordan during which he will tour the Jordanian projects being implemented by Romanian companies.

Meets Industry Minister

JN241842 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister 'Ali an-Nusur today reviewed with Ion Stanescu, Romanian minister of state for industrial construction and chairman of the joint Romanian-Jordanian technical and economic cooperation committee, and the delegation accompanying him, fields of cooperation between Jordan and Romania and progress made in the third project of expanding the Jordanian oil refinery and the high-tension line project that are being implemented in Jordan.

The Romanian minister arrived in Amman last Friday on a visit of several days to Jordan.

AL-AKHBAR CALLS FOR RESPONSE TO ISRAELI ACTION

JN240918 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Mar 80 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "There Must Be a Response"]

[Text] The Israeli artillery and rocket attack launched against villages and cities in south Lebanon, which is an attempt to destroy the national accord that the Lebanese have nearly reached and to wipe out the accord's lines with Lebanese children's blood and the flames caused by Israel, should elicit the right response.

The Israeli attack launched covertly against Syria is an attempt to incite a sectarian war similar to that which is still going on in Lebanon after 4 years, and the attempt to divide Syria into small sectarian statelets incapable of facing Israel, should also elicit a response.

The settlement onslaught on Arab territories, where 4,000 dunums were confiscated near Jerusalem to construct buildings to tighten Israel control, or in Hebron, where the Israeli Cabinet yesterday decided to begin its settlement, or in other parts of the West Bank and Gaza, this attack should also elicit our response, since our history and future are liable to the dangers of Judaization.

These three fronts, if we can call them that, aim at one thing, which is to create a new status quo in the area that consolidates the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, weakens the national trend among Arabs in the area and creates a group of sectarian statelets among which Israel, the first state where religion took a defined national character, becomes the largest state, capable of determining the destiny of the region.

It becomes natural for the Lebanese and all the Arabs to defend Lebanon, Lebanon's Arabism and its unity and to resist Israeli schemes on Lebanese territories.

It is also natural for Syria to confront all plots against its entity and steadfastness and to take steps, which we believe the opening of the frontline for the Palestinian resistance to be only one of them, that might lead the region to more critical incidents. The Arab moves in the West Bank against Israeli settlements is also natural, but portending the extent that resistance, confrontation and struggle between national right, on the one hand, and settlement extremism, on the other, could also lead the region to the brink.

All this reveals that Israel is planning for war and for establishing another status quo that suits its determination to continue its occupation and to continue refusing the Palestinians their right to self-determination. Its only interest in peace plans is to stop them, and we have to take this into account.

MAURITANIAN STUDENTS TAKE OVER OWN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS

NC261045 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Damascus, March 26 (AFP)--Forty-five Mauritanian university students today occupied their country's embassy in this Syrian capital, saying they would remain until "just and legitimate" grant claims had been honoured. In a phone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, they said they were demanding an increase in their grants to improve their situation here. They also called on their government to send an envoy to negotiate with them and solve their problems.

JORDANIAN GROUPING URGES ARAB SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN251920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Amman--The popular forces grouping in Jordan today announced that only agents, hirelings and traitors accept to sabotage Syria, because in doing so, they are clearly implementing the imperialist-Zionist comspiracy against our Arab existence.

In a statement issued in Amman today, the group said that Syria's steadfastness at this particular phase is the only hope for the failure of the Camp David and autonomy conspiracy, which is now going through the agonies of death and final collapse along with As-Sadat.

The popular forces grouping in Jordan pointed out that the stands of the other Arab regimes which took part in the Baghdad summit are not compatible with their commitments under the Baghdad summit resolutions. The grouping affirmed that Syria is the center of the Arab rejection approved by the Baghdad conference and that plotting against Syria means plotting against the principle of rejection and being indifferent to this plotting. It means tacit approval of and indirect participation in the plotting.

The statement points to the increasing dangers surrounding our Arab existence and crucial issues as well as the future of the Arab citizen and the nation. The statement says: It is our duty to clearly point out to the citizen the nature of the events, the extent of their gravity, the forces behind them and the real Arab positions on these events.

The statement affirms: Our Arab homeland is approaching the end of a decisive and delicate phase which will decide the fate of a serious conspiracy; namely, the Camp David accords, which aim at liquidating the Palestine question, eliminating Arab rejection of the Zionist existence and hitching the Arab world to the Western imperialist camp so as to maintain the domination and serve the interests of the United States, the West and Zionism.

The statement asserts: The enlightened Arab citizen knows that the Syrian stand is the mainstay of the unified Arab stand against this conspiracy. The Syrian stand is directly backed by Iraq, Jordan and Syria; ideologically backed by Algeria, Libya and the PDRY; and politically and economically backed by the rest of the Arab states which took part in the Baghdad summit. Having discovered this fact, the Camp David partners revised their plans to destroy the mainstay of Arab resistance--Syria. Thus, Syria has become the target of all these plots.

The statement adds: What is left now is to speak about the stand which must be adopted by the partners in the Baghdad summit toward this plot. Iraq, Jordan and the PLO must assume primary responsibility in unifying their stands so as to give absolute support to Syria and to play an equal role in checking and crushing the plot. The statement stresses that the destruction of Syria at this stage will mean the destruction of the Arab stand rejecting the Camp David accords, and, consequently, the subduing of Jordan and Iraq, the liquidation of the existence of the Palestinian people and the falsification of Arab national existence under U.S. domination and Zionist hegemony.

The statement concludes: We call for complete support for the Syrian stand. Arab governments will be judged by their real stands in upholding or disavowing these principles.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES PLO'S 'ARAFAT 25 MAR

JN251311 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO executive committee chairman; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department; and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman and executive committee member. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Discuss Current Developments

JN251748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee; Faurq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department; and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, member of the executive committee. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

The meeting was a general review of current developments in the Arab region and international events and their impact on the situation in the region. Viewpoints were identical on the analysis of the situation and its developments. It was also agreed to hold the fourth summit conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation soon.

The Palestinian side strongly condemned the Camp David partners' plot against Syria to undermine its solid steadfastness. Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian revolution supports Syria's honorable stand under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He also affirmed the Palestinian revolution's readiness to do whatever possible to support the brave Syrian stand. He stressed that the enemies of Syria are the enemies of the Palestinian revolution.

'Arafat expressed the Palestinian revolution's appreciation of Syria's sacrifices and efforts to foil the hostile plan to liquidate the Palestine question.

PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN GROUPS FIVE SUPPORT TO AL-ASAD

JN252049 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text of memo addressed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad by the Palestinian Fedayeen groups in Syria--date not given]

[Text] The representatives of the Palestinian revolution groups operating in Syria have held a series of meetings in the PLO office in Damascus to discuss the imperialist-reactionary onslaught against Syria and the Palestinian revolution. The groups approved a struggle program to confront this onslaught. The program includes the definition of their stand as set out in this memo.

The representatives of the Palestinian revolution groups operating in Syria hail the heroic Syrian people--workers, peasants, soldiers and intellectuals; in other words, all Syrian forces--and declare that they are in the same trench as all the progressive nationalist Syrian forces, which are firmly and courageously confronting the murder and sabotage operations perpetrated by the local reactionary forces represented by the agents of the black Camp David, especially the criminal Muslim Brotherhood gangs.

They also openly declare that there is no neutrality in Arab Syria's battle against the plans of U.S. imperialism and its reactionary allies. They affirm to the masses of our people and nation the following:

First, the reactionary onslaught to which Syria is exposed at this delicate stage is only a link in the chain of U.S.-Zionist-reactionary plots to cow our nation and undermine its steadfastness in a desperate attempt to carry out the Camp David conspiracy and the treasonous agreements and results devolving from it. This onslaught is not isolated from the plots to abort the Arab national Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation which took the first steps toward containing and foiling the plans of the black Carter-As-Sadat-Begin alliance.

Second, all false and alleged concern shown by the forces of the reactionary plot cannot conceal the real identity and plans of the criminal gangs and their allies, the gangs which in the past stood against the national gains achieved by 'Abd an-Nasir of Arabdom and are now siding with traitor As-Sadat and Zionist occupation against the nationalist forces resisting occupation and the autonomy plan. These same gangs are also trying to weaken Syria's steadfastness and sabotage its internal front under the orders and plans of U.S. imperialism, the main enemy of our people and nation.

Third, this reactionary onslaught is not just against Syria and its steadfastness but also against all the bases of Arab steadfastness and every nationalist and progressive element in our region. Therefore, it is the duty of all the Arab progressive and nationalist forces to stand in one rank to defeat all hostile plans and to continue the national liberation struggle until the toppling of the central conspiracy, represented by the Camp David accords and the resultant traitorous steps. This is the first and main task of all honest Arab strugglers.

Fourth, while greeting the representatives of the various mass organizations in Syria, we strongly support all the resolutions issued by the special conference held by these organizations which constitute a decisive reply to the plans of the reactionary forces and will really help in consolidating the bases of steadfastness and progress in Syria.

Fifth, a firm confrontation of this reactionary onslaught and the plans of its perpetrators calls for tightening the cohesion among Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and developing the Arab national Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation by holding its fourth summit and seriously implementing the resolution of the previous summit. Such a confrontation also calls for consolidating the strategic alliance with our people's firm loyal friends and allies represented by the socialist bloc countries, headed by the Soviet Union.

[Signed] Fatah, the PFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, the PFLP-General Command, the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, the Popular Liberation War Vanguards, As-Sa'iqah, and and the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

NEWLY APPOINTED GOVERNORS SWORN IN 24 MAR

JN241644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Dayr az-Zawr governor Hamad 'Amr was sworn in before President Hafiz al-Asad at 1345 today. Afterward, President al-Asad received the Dayr az-Zawr governor and gave him instructions. Dar'a governor Mustafa Miru was sworn in before President Hafiz al-Asad at 1430 today. Afterward, President al-Asad also received him and gave him instructions.

VOL REPORTS 'ACUTE TENSION' ARRESTS IN NORTHERN SYRIA

NC221621 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio correspondent reports that the security situation in northern Syria is still one of acute tension in the wake of the clashes which have occured between men of the intelligence service and members of the Muslim Brotherhood group. During the clashes the Iraqi flag was raised in the area. The radio correspondent notes that intelligence service men yesterday evening cordoned off the Al-Hasakah area in northern Syria and raided houses in search of Muslim Brotherhood members. They arrested two men in the Al-Ghuwayran quarter of Al-Hasakah province. The correspondent adds that mobile roadblocks are still appearing on the roads of the northern area, over which an atmosphere of caution and alert reigns.

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS AL-ASAD OPEN TO TREATY WITH USSR

LD240937 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0803 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 24 March--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has agreed in principle to the conclusion of a treaty of friendship with the USSR, the Kuwaiti paper (?AL-WATAN) reports today in a dispatch attributed to informed diplomatic sources in Damascus. The paper, citing these sources, adds that the Syrian president has "abandoned" his earlier reservations about such a treaty under Soviet "insistence."

In a statement to the press last week the Syrian prime minister, Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, denied that there was any question of concluding a treaty of friendship and cooperation between his country and the USSR. He added, however, that the Syrian republic would seek the help of all its friends should the United States escalate its "aggression" against it.

According to the paper, a high-level Syrian delegation will visit Moscow shortly to complete discussions on some pending matters, including the proposed treaty of friendship. Meanwhile, AL-WATAN quotes Syrian political sources which it describes as reliable as saying that President al-Asad is contemplating a reshuffle of the present government in order to assign some ministerial portfolios to the Syrian Communist Party. The paper also says that the likelihood of the communist party's participation in the government could be the result of a rapprochement which was noticed to have developed recently between it and the ruling Ba'th Party. The paper says, however, that the communist party ministers will not occupy important portfolios such as foreign affairs, interior, defense or information. Al-Kasm's present government was formed only 10 weeks ago. It has two communist ministers.

ALGERIA

GDR'S MITTAG, AGRARIAN MINISTER HOLD COOPERATION TALKS

LD241540 Algiers APS in English 1233 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 24/3/80 (APS)--The Algerian CC member, agriculture and agrarian revolution minister and Mr Guenter Mittag, secretary of the German Unified Socialist Party (SED) CC of the G.D.R., had talks Sunday on the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. It centred particularly on the (?positions) included in the report signed June 1979 in Berlin and on the improvement of cooperation through the realization of stocking infrastructures, small milk units etc.... The two parties reaffirmed their will to collaborate on the creation of centres for repairing the agricultural equipment and the implementing of "pilot farms." On the other hand, the two sides agreed that the GDR could intervene in the following sectors:

--Increasing of the agricultural equipment's deliveries (combine-harvesters) and the reinforcement of the after-sale services;

--Formation of Algerian cadres at all levels particularly in the field of agriculture, both in Algeria and the GDR, on the base of a joint elaborated programme.

They also agreed that the projects linked with the economic, scientific and technical cooperation will be directed by an intergovernmental accord. Furthermore, Algerian Labour and Vocational Training Minister Mouloud Oumeziane received Sunday, Mr Mittag who is also a member of the GDR's State Council.

LIBYA

AFP REPORTS LIBYA READY TO GIVE LEBANON AIR SUPPORT

NC260816 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 26 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, March 26 (AFP)--Libya is ready to provide Lebanon with air support "against Israeli aggression," the Libyan charge d'affaires here, Mabruk Khalifah al-'Ayyan, today confirmed in a statement to the Lebanese news agency AS-SAHAFIYAH. "Libya is fully prepared to support Lebanon's air defenses," the statement said. "It desires, moreover, the stability and security of this brother nation and expresses its anxiety over the recent events in south Lebanon."

The statement follows a recent visit to Libya by Lebanese member of parliament Fu'ad Lahhud, who chairs the parliamentary defence committee. Mr Lahhud announced on his return that Libya was prepared to offer air defence support to Lebanon.

JALLUD RECEIVES TWO PALESTINIAN FRONT OFFICIALS

LD251708 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salem Ahmad Jallud this afternoon received in audience at Ash-Shab Palace in Tripoli brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and brother Fadil Surur, member of the Central Committee and official spokesman of the front, who are currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

JALLUD, IRAN'S KHALKHALI MEET, MAKE STATEMENTS

LD251956 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 25 GMT 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud today met Ayatollah Assadeq Khalkhali, one of the leaders of the Islamic revolution in Iran, who is visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. During this meeting which was held at the People's Palace in Tripoli, Ayatollah Khalkhali warmly praised the grand al-Fatah revolution and its role in confronting imperialism and reaction. He warmly hailed the leader of the revolution, and said: "We are proud of him and his pioneering role in support of justice and Islam". He confirmed that the relations between the grand al-Fatah revolution and the Islamic revolution in Iran are growing. He dismissed any differences between the two revolutions, and said that the only existing difference is between the two revolutions on one side and imperialism and reaction on the other.

Ayatollah Khalkhali added: "We are sure of the defeat of imperialism and reaction". He explained that the power of the Iranian Revolution could destroy the remnants of reaction and imperialist lackeys in Iran, who were defeated and dispersed. He pointed out that the current stage requires the reinforcement of Muslims' unity, in order to support their just cause, particularly the Palestinian cause. Ayatollah Khalkhali condemned the defeated As-Sadat and said that he betrayed Islam by his inhuman behaviour, characterised by deceit and treachery, which enabled the (Israelis) to raise their flag over the Egyptian soil and the martyrs' blood. He added that the sanctuary given by the defeated president of Egypt to his friend the shah was to cover his hang-ups and defeat on the various fronts.

On his part, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud pointed out that the grand al-Fatah revolution was the only one that refused to establish relations with the shah. It was the revolution that predicted the outbreak of the Iranian Revolution and supported it. He said that the Arabs and Iranians could play a key role in support of Islam, and the time has come for a joint action to translate these efforts into a reality that serves Islamic issues and the Muslims in the world.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN INTERVIEWED AFTER TALKS WITH GISCARD

LD242047 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Today President Giscard d'Estaing gave a working lunch in honor of His Majesty King Hassan II. At the end of the luncheon, his majesty told journalists: There is no problem between Morocco and France. There are contacts and consultations and also a determination on each side to bring happiness to our two peoples and to mankind.

Replying to the question: What is your opinion of President as-Sadat's statement objecting to remarks made by President Giscard d'Estaing when he recently visited some Arab countries? his majesty said: We did not touch on this question. But in the current reality of events, there is in our two points of view, from the legal viewpoint, more realism than in the opinion of President as-Sadat. I wish the Egyptian president and his country, in view of the position which that country occupies in the Arab world at present and will occupy in the future, would categorically reject the proposals which have been put to him in connection with self-determination, and especially in the form these were proposed to him.

Regarding the possibility of coming to negotiations in connection with the Sahara issue, his majesty stressed that military confrontation often opens the door for negotiations. Replying to a question about what has been recently reported by propaganda bugles about significant losses among the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces during the mopping-up operation recently in Sahara, his majesty said that these are false reports and pointed out that it is difficult to provide truthful reports instead of embarking on propaganda and clowning. Morocco, his majesty said, is a state. It reports what takes place in the region. The other side is a group of subversive elements who rely on propaganda and on distorting the truth. I, his majesty added, challenge anyone to claim that the figures mentioned by our reports are wrong or exaggerated. But the propaganda of the other side has made us used to such things. During the question and answer session his majesty was accompanied by the French president, and by Minister of Royal Palaces General Alawi.

KING HASSAN RECEIVES SENEGAL, GUINEA FOREIGN MINISTERS

LD241125 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 15 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Special correspondent report: "His Majesty the King Receives the Senegalese and Guinean Foreign Ministers"]

[Text] Marrakesh, 15 March--Senegalese Foreign Minister Mustapha Niasse was received at the Marrakesh royal palace by King Hassan II to whom he handed a personal message from President Leopold Sedar Senghor.

His majesty the king also received Guinean Foreign Minister Abdelhay Toure, who handed the sovereign a personal message from President Sekou Toure.

These audiences took place in the presence of Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation.

SUDAN

SENEGALESE ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR NUMAYRI

JN252051 Khartoum SUNA in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 25 (SUNA)--A special envoy of Senegalese President Leopold Senghor arrived here last night carrying a message to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

PRC LABOR DELEGATION DEPARTS SUDAN 25 MAR

JN251749 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 25 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 25 (SUNA)--A workers delegation from the People's Republic of China left here today after a week-long visit to Sudan.

While here, the delegation, headed by Mr Qi Ping, secretary general of the Chinese Workers Trade Unions Association, held talks with their Sudanese counterparts and toured some schemes implemented by China in Sudan.

TUNISIA

ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION ON U.S. STAND ON QAFSAH

LD251506 Tunis TAP in English 1418 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, March 25 (TAP)--Meeting today in plenary session, the Tunisian National Assembly passed a resolution following the U.S. Congress stand with respect to Tunisia after the aggression perpetrated against the city of Qafsah. In this resolution the Tunisian parliament "expresses regard for the U.S. Congress stand, which is in accordance with the principles of justice and peace:

--Affirms the Tunisian deputies' will to strengthen ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation between both peoples in view of achieving their common objectives as part of freedom, justice, peace and stability;

--Recalls Tunisia's engagement to respect the UN Charter and its fundamental principles aimed at reaching peaceful coexistence as part of mutual respect and on the basis of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs, of respect of states' sovereignty, independence and integrity;

--And reaffirms the unity of all the Tunisian nation's forces to defend the country's integrity and achievements".

GAMBIAN PRESIDENT JAWARA ARRIVES IN TUNISIA

LD241950 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] The president of Gambia, Dawda Kairaba Jawara, and Mrs Jawara, arrived at Tunis-Carthage international airport at 1700 hours today on a 4-day official visit to Tunisia at the invitation of President Habib Bourguiba.

At the VIP lounge at the airport, the Gambian president made a statement in which he expressed his pleasure to be visiting Tunisia and President Bourguiba, whom he described as the doyen of African politicians. He added that he would be having talks with Tunisian officials on issues of mutual interest and topics of interest of Africa and the questions of the hour. He pointed out that relations between the two countries are good, and that cooperation between them requires Gambian support. He expressed the hope that this visit will provide an opportunity to find new spheres for bilateral cooperation.

In reply to a question about African problems, the Gambian president said that the African countries are basically suffering from the backwardness which they inherited from colonialism and the lack of coordination between [words indistinct]. He noted that the OAU meeting in Lagos assumes special significance in this respect.

The Gambian president is accompanied by a delegation which includes the minister of external affairs, the minister of economic planning and industrial development, the presidency's secretary general and the Gambian ambassador in Tunis.

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA DISCHARGED FROM PARIS HOSPITAL

LD221500 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Paris--Prime Minister Hedi Nouira has left the neuro-surgery section of La Pitie-Salpetriere hospital in Paris. The statement issued today by the doctors attending the prime minister in the French capital made it clear that convalescence has begun in the best circumstances to be expected. It has been learned from another source that Hedi Nouira will be going to a French province to spend a brief period of rest and then he will continue convalescence in Tunisia, most probably in Naftah in southern Tunisia.

WESTERN SAHARA

ARMY CLAIMS 2 MOROCCAN HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN

LD221710 Algiers APS in English 1609 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] SDAR, (Liberated Territories), 23/3/80, APS--"Two Moroccan helicopters were shot down by the Saharan People's Liberation Army (S.P.L.A.)," the Saharan Defence Ministery's sources said. The first one was shot down Tuesday, March 18 near Zag, a Moroccan garrison besieged by S.P.L.A. for several weeks. Its pilot was killed. The second was shot down March 20, not far from Zag, south of Oued Draa.

SAHARAN MINISTER VIEWS MOROCCAN KING'S VISIT TO FRANCE

LD242100 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Saharan Minister of Information and member of the Political Bureau of the POLISARIO Front Mohamed Salem Ould Salek made a statement today following the visit to France by King Hassan II, in which he said: The king of Morocco has rejected all the resolutions and recommendation made by international organizations and has openly defied the peace process which emerged in the region with the conclusion of the Mauritanian-Saharan peace agreement of August 1979. Thus, King Hassan II chose the course of war and his answer to the calls for justice and peace was his adoption of the policy of fait accompli imposed by force of arms. To achieve this adventurous policy the king of Morocco amassed huge quantities of weapons and equipment of all kinds. But in spite of all this, he suffered defeat in the face of the firm will of our people to resist the invasion of their country. In the face of this defeat in all fields, the king left for abroad to ask for oil, money and arms.

The Saharan minister added: Following the battles of Uargsis, here is Hassan II leaving for France in an attempt to involve it more in this war, which is impossible for Morocco to win. Nevertheless, this is an occasion for France, which is a friend of Morocco, to advise him to put an end to his adventures if France truly wants the stability and peace to which all the peoples of the Mediterranean region are aspiring and which the Moroccan Government continues to undermine.

BEGIN WANTS TO AVOID CRISIS ATMOSPHERE

TA261114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] This morning our ambassador in Cairo, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, met with Vice President Husni Mubarak and gave him the letter of reply from the prime minister of Israel. In his letter to President as-Sadat, Menahem Begin proposes that, in order to permit a continuation of the autonomy talks, an atmosphere of crisis should not be created in them. This is reported by our envoy Ehud Ya'ari.

LINOWITZ WINDS UP TALKS ON AUTONOMY QUESTION

News Conference in Jerusalem

TA251325 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Sol Linowitz answered reporters' questions at a Jerusalem news conference, and with that story, Arye Heskel.

[Heskel] At the news conference, Ambassador Linowitz made clear that in his talks with Prime Minister Begin he had asked Israel to declare a freeze on settlement in the administered territories.

[Begin Linowitz recording] We talked about the possibility of a freeze on settlement, and therefore there was some discussion about it. [end recording]

[Heskel] Although the meeting with journalists was before his third and final session with Premier Begin, Linowitz did not hedge his comments on Israel's decision on Jewish settlement in Hebron.

[Begin Linowitz recording] The decision was a disturbing one. I found it, as a negotiator, a cause of some concern which I communicated to the prime minister. It will not be helpful to the negotiations and we have made clear that we are, therefore, regretful that the decision was taken. [end recording]

[Heskel] The U.S. special ambassador described his 3 days of talks with Begin as good, intensive, frank and full and maintained that progress had been made.

[Begin Linowitz recording] I have been heartened by the express commitment here of Prime Minister Begin and the members of his Cabinet in wanting to move toward the May 26 date and to do everything possible to try to reach it. I, as I said, I anticipate that with that kind of a commitment, we will be able to overcome differences that may arise, such as the recent Hebron decision and the early expropriation of the land around Jerusalem and I think with that kind of a spirit on the part of Israel, Egypt and the United States, we will be able to work cooperatively together. [end recording]

[Heskel] Linowitz said that the autonomy being negotiated was an interim measure for a 5-year period and the United States did not envisage the emergence of an independent Palestinian state during this period. What of the PLO, he was asked.

[Begin Linowitz recording] Well, policy with reference to the PLO remains what it has been; clear and, I think, unmistakable and unequivocal, that we will not negotiate with or recognize the PLO unless or until it accepts Resolution 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist free of terrorism. [end recording]

[Heskel] Ambassador Linowitz was also asked to comment on statements made in Hebron yesterday by the city's mayor and its religious head, the qadi, who had threatened civil disobedience and had said that what they called the Zionist empire would fall, just as the British and Nazis before it. Linowitz had not heard the statement, but was, nevertheless, prepared to comment.

[Begin Linowitz recording] Well, I think it's safe to say I deplore them, without having heard them. [end recording]

Rejection of Linowitz Request

TA251345 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Israel has not accepted the proposal by U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz to freeze the settlements until 26 May, the target date for the end of the autonomy negotiations. Israel will agree to exchange views about matters of internal security in the territories, in the framework of the autonomy negotiations, only at the last stage of the deliberations, when there is agreement on the nature, authority and institutions of the autonomy to be established in the territories. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that this position was crystallized this morning at a meeting by the ministerial negotiating team and it appears that the prime minister reported to Ambassador Linowitz about this. The prime minister and the U.S. ambassador met at noon for a concluding talk. After wards they refused to give details, saying that these would have to be brought to President as-Sadat. This afternoon As-Sadat will meet with Ambassador Linowitz in Cairo.

Begin Report on Mission

TA251602 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on Autonomy Affairs which conferred with the prime minister this morning heard a report on the latter's talks with Ambassador Linowitz. Our political correspondent reports that the committee expressed its support for the prime minister for the stand he portrayed in the talks. The ministers also agreed on the direction to be taken at the round of talks to take place on Thursday. In this round, Israel will demand to accelerate the pace of the autonomy talks.

Linowitz Leaves for Cairo

TA251739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Sol Linowitz ended another round of talks and departed for Cairo. He stayed 3 days in Israel. During that time, he attempted to take the cart of the autonomy negotiations out of the mud. Through Linowitz, Israel has transmitted several questions to Egypt. The answers are now being awaited. Our political correspondent estimates that Egypt will make several concessions on the issue of the negotiations. It may be assumed that Israel will also soften its stand in future negotiations, our correspondent says.

[Schiffer] Linowitz continued to smile and keep still even at the end of the concluding talks with the prime minister at noon. During the last 2 days, in face-to-face talks with the prime minister lasting over 5 hours, the U.S. ambassador tried to move and advance the negotiations for the establishment of the autonomy. He demanded that Israel agree to freeze--as he put it--the establishment of settlements until 26 May, which is the target date for completing the negotiations. The prime minister rejected this proposal.

However, regarding Linowitz's other proposal to establish a committee which would examine Israel's security needs in the territories after the self-administration has been implemented, Linowitz managed to open a narrow crack in the Israeli position which had apparently been impenetrable.

Ambassador Linowitz asked that Israel agree to the establishment of a body headed by the Egyptian and Israeli defense ministers to discuss the IDF's deployment in the territories. Alternatively, Linowitz suggested that Israel present a map on which the new deployment areas of the IDF troops in Judaea and Samaria are marked.

It should be remembered that, in the framework of the Camp David agreements, it was stated that after the autonomy has been established, crossing arrangements would be implemented in the territories which would include the following components: the military government and the civil administration would withdraw and the IDF would redeploy its forces.

It was made clear to Linowitz in the talks that Israel would not agree to have the negotiating teams discuss Israel's general security needs. When the negotiations reach their final stage, Israel would agree to exchange views regarding the manner in which internal security would be insured within the autonomy boundaries. It may be assumed that in his meeting with President Carter next month, Mr Begin will bring specific proposals which would constitute some sort of Israeli concession in exchange for Egyptian concessions. Among those compromises there will be a proposal to discuss internal security in the territories. In his talks with the prime minister and Dr Burg, Linowitz also tried to examine Israel's stand concerning the possibility that the inhabitants of East Jerusalem be allowed to vote for the autonomy council. Linowitz emphasized that the reference was not to the status of East Jerusalem but to the status of its Arab inhabitants. Apparently, the United States is suggesting that every East Jerusalem inhabitant holding a Jordanian citizenship be permitted to vote for the autonomy institutions.

The message carried by Linowitz from Jerusalem to Cairo may be summed up in one sentence. The prime minister said to him: If the negotiations revolve around the establishment of the autonomy instead of dealing with questions referring to the final status of the territories, then the negotiations will be crowned with success; on the other hand, if the Egyptians and the Americans raise irrelevant subjects, the negotiations are doomed to failure.

MA'ARIV: Talks 'Frank,' but 'Tense'

TA251553 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 80 p 5 TA

[Editorial: "The Nature of Autonomy"]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Carter's special envoy to the autonomy talks Sol Linowitz have for three consecutive days now held profound clarifications about the fate of the talks, which are wavering between to be or not to be. The talks, which have been described by associates from both sides as very frank talks, contained many a tense moment, especially when they focused on the issue of the establishment of settlement.

Linowitz protested, albeit cautiously, the decision to settle houses in Hebron, even if this were for the purpose of "educational institutions" only.

The U.S. secretary of state was often praised in these talks by the prime minister as a "very honest person." Indeed Vance, unlike other administration personalities, including Ambassador Linowitz, spoke very candidly this week. He spoke the unadulterated truth. President Carter erred, he said, when he apologized for the U.S. vote in the Security Council; on the resolution that demanded Israeli governments--including everything that had been done in East Jerusalem.

Now the clarifications are getting down to the root of the controversial problems--the right to establish settlements, the souce of authority, the exclusive control of the IDF, and its deployment in West Bank locations to be determined by Israeli security elements; whereas the Egyptians, with U.S. support, demand that a "security committee" determine this with the consent of all parties.

Will the third day of the Begin-Linowitz talks come up with better results than the two previous days?

This question has a bearing on another question. What prospects will the prime minister's upcoming talks have at the White House next month? The Linowitz talks are but a general rehearsal for the talks with President Carter, and this may be the reason why an understanding is so difficult to reach in the talks here. Linowitz is trying his best to break through the Israeli wall and bring Carter some kind of a concession, from which the President could continue to exert pressure. Begin, however, is entrenching behind his firm position, "We won't consent to anything that we haven't agreed upon at Camp David."

To Begin, "Camp David" according to his interpretation, is the ultimate line of retreat. No wonder then that even three whole days are not enough to reach an understanding between Jerusalem and Washington on the nature of autonomy.

BEGIN MARKS SIGNING OF PEACE AGREEMENT

TA260633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0503 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Statement by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in commemoration of first anniversary of signing of peace agreement; time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] A year has passed since the signing of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. That day saw a basic turn--and we can have no hesitation in saying, a historic turn--in the history of both nations. For more than 30 years there was a state of war between them. Five bloody wars were fought between them. A year ago we did not sign a ceasefire, an armistice agreement or an interim agreement while the state of war continued and left a permanent opening for making war or for an attack, for bloodshed, orphanage, bereavement. This time we put an end to the state of war. We signed a permanent peace and we told each other that we would no longer use our weapons, one nation against its neighbor.

Yes, people become accustomed to any situation, and even today we have become accustomed to the fact, which appears so simple, that there is an Egyptian ambassador in Israel and an Israeli ambassador in Egypt. But his is not how matters appeared only 3 years ago. At that time, who believed this would happen? Many people dreamed about the day when there would be correct relations between us and our neighbors. A year ago we established them between us and the greatest of the Arab countries.

I will not deny at all, citizens of Israel, that for the sake of this objective we have made many sacrifices, even painful ones, but we preferred to make thesacrifices for the sake of peace rather than to make the sacrifices of war. Making peace was the duty of the generation that had been through so many tests, tests undergone before the establishment of the state and after the renewal of our independence. We have fulfilled this duty.

Not all our problems have been solved. The road before us is still a long one. We are conducting negotiations about establishing autonomy arrangements for the Arabs--the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The nation's security is constantly kept in mind. The international and regional situations are difficult and complicated. There are those who are trying to use them against us and, at our expense, to please an aggressive, blackmailing element. Not to accept demands of this sort--this is a national commandment of supreme importance.

We must again point out that with all our hearts we want to fulfil what we have taken upon ourselves, and in the second part of the Camp David agreements, too. But we will always remember and recall, and no arrangement likely to lead to the establishment of a state called Palestinian or even to a corridor leading to its establishment appears in these agreements. Autonomy for our Arab neighbors, security for our people. A coexistence of peace and understanding in Eretz Yisra'el--these are the contents and that is the significance of the agreements we signed and which we want and are prepared to honor in full.

But, while we see the difficulties facing us, we know that the primary thing was achieved a year ago when the representatives of Egypt, Israel and the United States of America set their signatures to a most important international document, that is, the peace treaty. From that, even now, further, additional agreements are growing which are an inseparable part of peaceful relations between the countries. It is also our duty to admit that we are still afflicted by economic difficulties, but there are foundations for the hope that we will also overcome them. Therefore, we know how to value the turn that took place in the life of the nation and its history in regard to that event. It is indeed true: Peace is the beauty of life and we have dreamed of it all our lives. A joyful holiday to the whole house of Israel.

SHAMIR SAYS AUTONOMY TALKS CAN BE COMPLETED BY 26 MAY

TA251621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir estimates that there is a reasonable chance that the autonomy talks will be completed by 26 May, if all parties abide by the spirit of the Camp David Accords. The talks have not reached a deadend, however, there are problems and difficulties which had been foreseen in advance.

The foreign minister added that, if a full agreement is not reached by 26 May, it would not constitute a tragedy since that was not the final but the optimal date. If an agreement is not reached by then, we will continue the talks.

Regarding the establishment of a security committee in the framework of the autonomy talks, the foreign minister noted that no decision had been made about it. However, security issues might be discussed later on in the course of the negotiations because we are ready to discuss any subject. Mr Shamir made these remarks in a talk with the voice of Israel Arab correspondent Shlomo Ganor on the occasion of the first anniversary of the peace treaty with Egypt.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN ALLEGEDLY TO RESIGN IN MAY

Informal Talk in Knesset

TA251707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 May 80 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said today that very soon he would cease acting as defense minister and he would leave the government. Our Knesset correspondents report that in a talk with several people on the Knesset committees' floor, 'Ezer Weizman said: I only want to complete the handling of the issue of the Israeli aircraft. Later, in May, I will quit my post.

Our correspondent notes that the defense minister himself has denied these remarks. However, as noted, several people heard him saying this in the Knesset.

Discussion of Plans

TA260946 JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Knesset reporter Asher Wallfish]

[Text] "I agree with this government about only one thing, the project to build the Lavi warplane for the Israel Air Force" Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said yesterday. He also made three separate comments to MK's during the day implying that he would soon resign from his post.

Defense Ministry denials of Weizman's statements were not taken seriously in the Knesset, since so many MK's and officials had heard him.

Yet another reflection of Weizman's mood yesterday was his comment to coalition MK's at the Joint Knesset Committee on the Defense Budget: "Don't interrupt me because I'm in no mood to defend government policy today."

Before the committee meeting got under way, one Alinement MK asked Weizman jocularly: "Well, when shall we have elections?" He got the straight-faced reply: "This government will be out by Rosh Hashana, at the very latest."

A second Alinement man asked Weizman the same question in the corridor but got a different answer: "Elections after May 26."

He spoke at slightly greater length to a MAPAM MK in the corridor, saying: "I'd like to wrap up all the arrangements to launch the Lavi warplane project. Then I shall be going to Washington in May for talks at the Pentagon. After that I'll return and resign."

"Do you have any other political options?" the MAPAM MK asked.

"None at all, I want to write a book," Weizman replied.

The defense minister's outbursts are interpreted by well-informed politicians as a reflection of his feeling of increasing isolation within the Herut Party. The view in the Knesset is that Prime Minister Menahem Begin has finally decided to do all he can to see that Weizman does not succeed him, as prime minister or as party chief. Weizman is well aware of this.

At a social gathering a fortnight ago, Begin reportedly said of Weizman: "I'm not at all sure what list Weizman wants to appear in for the next elections."

A Herut source said that Begin's policy towards the Hebron settlement issue was motivated by internal political considerations, including the desire to push Weizman up against the wall so that he would either shut up or resign. Weizman in fact "shut up" when the Cabinet discussed Hebron on Sunday, and where the defense minister was in the minority.

Begin's bid to isolate Weizman was taken up some weeks ago by Housing Minister David Levi, an influential man among the handful who run Herut, the JERUSALEM POST was told. Although Levi collaborated closely with Weizman in the past, and generally shared his dovish ideas, he suddenly turned hawk over the Hebron issue, acting as Begin's spokesman.

But with all Weizman's resignation predictions, nobody in the Knesset was prepared to bet that the defense minister meant what he said. They pointed out that Weizman enjoys his job tremendously and is jealous of Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, another reserve general breathing down his neck.

The POST was reminded that Weizman was so unhappy in the past when out of uniform and out of politics that it was hard to imagine him writing a book or running a company for very long.

Speculation that Weizman might try to take some Likud MK's with him, or put out feelers in the direction of Labor, were called by a top Alinement MK no more than "fair speculation" at this point.

The POST has learned from an associate of the defense minister that Weizman had considered resigning earlier this week, but that the repercussions of such an action at this delicate stage of the autonomy negotiations deterred him.

He reportedly felt that U.S. President Jimmy Carter would not have appreciated the possible demise of the Begin Government on the eve of his specially convened summit to foster the talks, and Weizman's resignation would have served to underline Israel's obduracy, thus harming the country's negotiating posture.

The minister also apparently feels that because Israel is entering into such a critical stage, his ability to influence events is far greater in the cabinet than outside.

HEBRON DISPUTE CONTINUES UNABATED

Religious, Political Leaders Quarrel

TA251251 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Religious leaders in Hebron are refusing to allow the Committee for National Guidance to conduct the public campaign against the settlement of Hebron and members of the committee are refusing to give the mayor of Hebron a senior status in conducting this campaign. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari says that because of this the members of the committee did not come to the rally held yesterday in the Hebron Municipality building. They want to convene rallies in other places in Judaea and Samaria, in which the mayor of Hebron will have an equal status to theirs. The mayors in the region have held consultations among themselves as to how to continue with the public fight against settling the Jewish houses in the town and our correspondent says that they apparently came to the conclusion that it was not possible to act on the matter of Hebron, as they did in the Bassam ash-Shak'ah affair. This is because there would be no value in their collective resignation now, since the term of office of the municipalities ends next month in any event. They also say that the fight today is against Prime Minister Begin himself, not again an unprincipled decision that could have been changed, as it was in the Bassam ash-Shak'ah affair.

Hebron Mayor Admonished

TA251620 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi was summoned to the military governor of Judaea and Samaria today. He was severely admonished and warned regarding the utterances made at the rally at the Hebron Municipality yesterday. Our military correspondent Gad Beqer reports on the issue.

[Beqer] Remarks of the sort heard at the Hebron Municipality yesterday were never heard before and they are the gravest ever made by a local leader of Judaea and Samaria. This was said to us by a senior source in Judaea and Samaria. The military government regards the remarks with the utmost severity.

The military governor of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, today summoned Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi to his office. He severely admonished him and warned him against having incidents similar to those taking place yesterday from recurring. Military government elements pointed out that calm prevailed in Judaea and Samaria today and that the commercial strike was only partial and did not comprise all the towns.

The military government is closely examining the statements made yesterday. At the same time, it is working on keeping calm and restoring order by talking to both Jews and Arabs. So far, no measures have been taken against the speakers at the rally held in Hebron yesterday.

Military Governor Discusses Meeting

TA252030 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Interview with military commander of Judaea and Samaria Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Rafiq Halabi; presumably today in Ben-Eli'ezer's office--videotaped]

[Text] To date there has been a lot of talk in the West Bank. However, it seems to me that the rally in Hebron in and of itself and the statements we heard deviated from any acceptable or reasonable framework. Undoubtedly, the remarks made yesterday were some of the gravest ever heard in the West Bank to date.

[Question] What has the military government done? What have you done in the wake of these statements?

[Answer] As you know, the [Hebron] mayor was summoned to my office today. He was informed of the gravity of the utterances made yesterday. He was warned and severely reprimanded.

[Question] You summon the mayor and warn him. However, such remarks have already been said in the past. What do you expect him to do? Not to say such things?

[Answer] It seems to me that in the talk I held today with Mayor al-Qawasimi, I explicitly made clear to him the seriousness of the remarks uttered this time. I also told him in a clear-cut manner, that there is an accepted framework which we will be ready to tolerate and that he had to obey to it. Any deviation from this framework will be seriously regarded by us. There is a wide and vast difference between the utterances made yesterday and the situation prevailing in the field today. It is true that the entire city of Hebron was on strike today. However, beyond Hebron, the situation in the field was one of business as usual.

Support for Hebron Mayor

TA260755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Committee for National Guidance in Judaea and Samaria has called upon all the West Bank inhabitants, each and every one of them, to stand behind Hebron. The Council for National Guidance says that, after they began to Judaize the Makhpelah Cave and Jerusalem, they now want to Judaize Hebron itself, and this must be vigorously opposed.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the committee met last night in East Jerusalem. A Hebron Municipality rally was planned for the same time, but the mayor was asked to go to the committee meeting in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent also reports that the security establishment has decided that it is satisfied for now with the rebuke it gave to Al-Qawasimi. However, policy will be changed if the verbal violence in future rallies changes or if the government decides otherwise. The decision to rebuke Al-Qawasimi was made after a talk between the defense minister, the coordinator of activities in the territories and the commander of Judaea and Samaria. Mr Weizman decided he was content with the more lenient approach. The other possibilities mentioned were banishment or a trial.

MA'ARIV Commentary

TA251448 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 80 p 3 TA

[By Yosef Wachsman]

[Text] The motive behind the prime minister's submitting to the Cabinet his proposal regarding Hebron was to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. This was disclosed by Mr Begin's associates.

According to them, the decision reached--to establish a Yeshiva and a field school in Hebron--does not contradict the Camp David accords. It is not postulated in that agreement, nor anywhere else, that we mustn't establish such institutions in Hebron or in any other place in Eretz Yisra'el, provided there is no incursion on our part on the rights of the local inhabitants.

The prime minister's associates also said, citing Mr Begin's own statements, that those opposing Zionist action in Hebron, do so out of poltical reasons and not due to any humane considerations. They oppose not only the establishment of a field school and a yeshiva in Hebron, but every Jewish action in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The prime minister believes that those elements constitute no more than 2 percent of Israel's population.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT OF RAKAH DELEGATION TO GDR

For the joint statement on the visit of the Israeli Communist Party [RAKAH] delegation to the GDR, as published by NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 26 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

AFGHANISTAN

REVOLUTIONARIES CLAIM 10 SOVIET SOLDIER KILLED, 20 CAPTURED

JN260651 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] In a statement to PARS, the Muslim Afghan party bureau has stated that the party's mojahedin killed 10 enemy soldiers and captured 20 others during a fierce battle between the mojahedin and the Soviet forces and their agents in the village of (Salimi?) near the city of (Tashtun Zargun), Herat Province.

During the 4-hour battle, the mojahedin also seized 90 Kalashnikov machineguns and a large number of antiaircraft guns. Three mojahedin were martyred during the operation.

The Muslim Afghan party bureau added that a large number of the soldiers who were stationed in the area had joined the ranks of the party's mojahedin.

TWO FOREIGN DETAINEES RELEASED BY SECURITY FORCES

LD251844 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued by security forces--read by announcer]

[Text] Our long-suffering compatriots are aware that with the direct provocation of the imperialist subversive networks, especially U.S. imperialism and its Chinese and Pakistani allies and (?friends), hirelings and mercenary troublemakers set about creating unrest and anxiety in Kabul city on 21 and 22 February. Thanks to the wisdom and understanding of the party, government and social organizations, the principal agents of this incident were arrested and their ugly faces were shown by mass media in order to introduce them and make them known.

Among the troublemakers, seditionists and adventure-seekers, an Australian national, 32-year old (?Joseph) [name indistinct], was also arrested by the Sarandoy police. In the course of investigation he has confessed to the crime of provocation and sedition among the people and, expressing remorse, he has requested the country's security authorities to reduce his punishment.

Similarly, on 21 February 1980 a U.S. national, 41-year old, (?Charles) [name indistinct], was arrested by Sarandoy officials. In the course of investigation he confessed to sedition and at the end of the investigation has requested a reduction of his punishment.

With a sense of profound altruism and expression of good will the DPR Government has decided to set them free. They were thus released from prison on [date indistinct] March 1980 and banned (?from returning).

SOVIET LAWYERS ORGANIZE FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS

LD242128 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1600 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Fourteen years have elapsed since the international agreement concerning the definition of civil and political human rights. For the purpose of describing the implementation of the articles of this agreement on socialist and imperialist countries, a forum was organized this afternoon by a number of Soviet lawyers in the Soviet cultural center in Kabul. Heads of publishing houses, members of the democratic youth organization and a number of journalists participated. The Soviet lawyers contrasted the adoption of civil and political human rights in the socialist countries with those in the imperialist countries and gave detailed explanations.

They mentioned the adoption of the articles of this international agreement in socialist countries, especially the USSR, and said that these countries, because of their respect for human rights in the civil and political areas, have taken extensive measures and have even enshrined them in their constitutions. Whereas this policy, because of the hated capitalist policy of the imperialist countries, not only has not been fully put into practice but has also been severely hindered.

PAKISTANI LEADER GHAFFAR KHAN ON USSR; DEPARTS KABUL FOR INDIA

USSR, Indian Aid

BK250931 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0847 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan would leave Kabul for New Delhi on March 26 for treatment and rest. A report from Kabul says that Badshah Khan's passport has been endorsed for India by Pakistan, reports All India Radio.

In an interview with ALAAZAN NEWS AGENCY in Kabul, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has spoken about the Soviet Union's cooperation with Afghanistan and India to give all possible help to Kabul. India could play an important role in solution of problem of Afghanistan, he added.

Karmal Farewell Meeting

LD251735 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan this afternoon met with Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader, for a farewell meeting at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council in Arg. [as received] Babrak Karmal wishes Pacha Khan, the great Pashtun leader, who has spent his life in struggle against oppression, reaction and imperialism, good health. He also expressed the hope that he will return to Afghanistan in good health so that it will once again be possible to welcome this struggler and great Pashtun leader in Afghanistan; Pacha Khan is leaving for India for medical treatment tomorrow.

In turn Pacha Khan prayed for the well-being, safety and happiness of the people of Afghanistan and the victory of the new stage of the development of the Sawr Revolution, which toppled the fascist Amin and his terrorist band and brought about a climate of peace, democracy and freedom for the people of Afghanistan. He added: May the foreign intervention and aggression in Afghanistan be discontinued soon so that (?the ground) is prepared for the return of the limited Soviet military contingents which have come to Afghanistan in order to repel this aggression.

According to another report, Babrak Karmal had lunch the previous day with Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan at the revolutionary council headquarters.

KABUL COMMENTARY OUTLINES EDUCATION'S PROGRESS, SIGNIFICANCE

GF251840 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 80 GF

[Unattributed commentary: "The New School Year"]

[Excerpts] The advent of spring initiates a school year in the country's cold regions. Schoolchildren are taking advantage of the favorable weather and are full of hope for a bright future.

In accordance with its national and democratic program, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] has prepared modern curricula, opened new educational and teaching institutions and provided pupils with all the necessary requirements for learning. It has also encouraged a large number of young people and children to get an education.

A reliable source at the Education Ministry has said: In order to benefit from the new opportunities created by the DRA, more than 260,000 children have enrolled in school--a 27 percent increase over 1979. Excluding [word indistinct] and vocational schools, there are 5,284 village, primary, and secondary schools--a 13 percent increase over last year.

The increase in the number of new pupils and schools demonstrates that our revolutionary state is seeking to expand educational opportunities so our masses will be able to emerge from the darkness of ignorance. The DRA Government realizes that our revolution's great goals can be achieved through enlightenment, knowledge and education.

In the present stage in which our country has become the center of an international struggle against oppression and imperialism, the people, prompted by revolutionary motives, have united to advance the wheel of progress and construction. Thus, with awareness, knowledge and education, and by supporting the party and the state, our masses will be able to foil the enemies' conspiracies.

ARTILLERY TRAINING EXERCISE TO BE CONDUCTED 26 MAR

LD252138 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Announcement by commander of the central garrison in Kabul--read by announcer]

[Text] Beginning tomorrow and until 29 March, there will be an artillery training exercise in the Butkhak area, which will include the firing of live rounds. We are informing the citizens of Kabul of this exercise so they will not be disturbed by it.

BAKHTAR TRANSMITS DOMESTIC NEWS THROUGH TASS

GF251750 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 80 GF

[Text] For the first time in Afghanistan's history the transmission of domestic news to the world has begun by the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY. A direct communication link in the information field took place today between BAKHTAR of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and TASS of the Soviet Union through the operation of automatic transmitters and receivers.

A BAKHTAR source said: Important domestic news, messages, official speeches, newspaper editorials, commentaries on domestic and foreign affairs and a selection of information items will be transmitted through TASS to more than 80 countries by this automatic system.

On initiating the operation of the equipment, BAKHTAR's director paid tribute to the sincere cooperation of the Soviet news agency TASS and its engineers.

MODERATE EARTHQUAKE HITS AFGHAN-USSR BORDER 23 MARCH

WA231248 London REUTER in English 1234 GMT 23 Mar 80 WA

[Text] New Delhi, March 23, REUTER--An earthquake of moderate intensity near the border between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was recorded today by Indian Government seismographs, the PRESS TRUST of INDIA reported. It said the epicentre was 700 miles from Delhi at a latitude of 37 degrees north and a longitude of 70 degrees east.

BANGLADESH

PROTESTS LODGED OVER GUMTI RIVER DAM CONSTRUCTION

BK251716 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has strongly protested to India over the Indian plan to construct a dam across the Gumti River in the Indian state of Tripura. This was stated by minister for power, water resources and flood control, Kazi Anwarul Haq, at Jatiya Sangsao [Parliament] this afternoon in response to a call-attention notice by A.S.M. Suleman.

DACCA CITES CARTER, HUA GUOFENG MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT ZIA

BK260624 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] World leaders have felicitated President Zia on the occasion of Independence Day.

In a message, President Carter has said that the United States highly values the existing friendship and understanding between the two countries and looks forward for continued close collaboration in the search for world peace.

Chairman Hua Guofeng of China in his message said that Bangladesh has played a positive role in preserving peace and stability in South Asia and the world as a whole. He also said that Bangladesh has achieved encouraging success in upholding internal unity and developing national economy and building up the country.

The other heads of states include those of Cuba, Belgium, Guinea, Vietnam, Australia, Burma, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, the German Democratic Republic and Turkey.

BHUTAN

TIBETAN REFUGEES WILL NOT BE DEPORTED TO CHINA

BK251607 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 25 Mar (AFP)--The Bhutanese Government has abandoned a plan to deport about 4,000 Tibetan refugees to China, reports reaching here from Thimpu, the capital of the tiny Himalyan kingdom said today.

The reports quoting the Bhutanese Foreign Minister Mr. Lyyonpo Dawa Tsering said, "...international laws do not recommend sending refugees back to their country, where their lives and freedom are likely to be jeopardised".

This is in sharp contrast to the stand the government of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk had taken last year when the Bhutanese National Assembly passed a resolution calling for immediate deportation of those Tibetan refugees who refuse to take up Bhutanese nationality.

The decision had evoked controversies and the 44-year-old temporal and spiritual leader of the Tibetans, the Dalai Lama, who runs his Tibetan government in exile from Dharamsala, north India, lodged protests with the Bhutanese mission here.

The reports said that the Bhutanese National Assembly has now directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to "explore the possibility of getting other countries to accept the Tibetan refugees."

INDIA

BULGARIA'S MLADENOV ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI, DISCUSSIONS HELD

Remarks, at Delhi Airport

BK251455 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A warm welcome was accorded to His Excellency Petur Mladenov, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, when he arrived in New Delhi on the morning of 25 March on a 5-day [as received] official visit. He was accompanied by Madame Mladenova. He was received by Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao and high officials of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Speaking at the airport, Mladenov said: "In my country India is known not only as the cradle of ancient civilizations and cultures but also as a contemporary country of dynamic growth and active participation in the consolidation of peace and detente, a country with which we are brought close together by stable friendship and cooperation."

He said he believed that his visit, "which represents a happy followup of a good tradition in the keeping up of contacts between the two governments, will contribute to the further enhancement of the Bulgarian-Indian friendly relations." He said he was happy to be with the Indian people "with whom we are bound together by a strong and sincere friendship."

Mladenov said he would discuss with Indian leaders the prospects of improving bilateral relations and exchange views on some international issues of mutual interest. The visiting dignitary will have a round of 2 hours of talks with Rao, which will be followed by a call on President N. Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Gandhi.

Talks With Rao, Reddy, Gandhi

BK260857 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0831 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Wideranging and detailed discussions on the general international situation touching specifically on the problems of detente and disarmament took place during the official talks between visiting Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov and Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi on March 25, reports PTI.

During the talks Mladenov pointed out that the recent military developments in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries and other developments initiated by the United States had negatively affected the process of detente and disarmament.

Rao took note of the assessment given by Mladenov and mentioned that the setback received to the process of disarmament and detente was unfortunate and might lead to complications and tensions in many parts of the world. He pointed out that India shared the concern of all the peace-loving countries in regard to the problems of detente and disarmament and was willing to cooperate in any manner to contribute towards detente.

Both foreign ministers exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and conveyed their respective assessment. It was agreed that all concerned should cooperate to defuse the situation and to prevent escalation of the crisis. There was also agreement that the people of Afghanistan should be able to decide their own future.

During the official talks Rao was assisted by Foreign Secretary P.D. Sathe and Joint Secretary (Eastern Europe) Arvind Deo.

Mladenov paid a courtesy call on President Sanjiva Reddy and also called on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi and Mladenov exchanged views on the international situation with special reference to the events in Afghanistan and on the situation in Europe with reference to the problems affecting detente. Mladenov delivered a letter of Bulgarian President Zhivkov to Mrs Gandhi.

According to the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, the communication emphasised the need for expanding India-Bulgarian relations, especially in the economic and commercial fields.

The Bulgarian president has extended an invitation to Mrs Gandhi to visit Bulgaria. In tune with the Bulgarian president's communication, Mrs Gandhi agreed that there was scope for expanding India-Bulgarian relations. The prospects for this should be studied at the next India-Bulgarian joint commission meeting.

REDDY CALLS FOR DEFUSING TENSION IN AREA

BK251609 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Mar (AFP)--President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy has underlined the need for "defusing the tensions in our neighbourhood" and reminded the Asian and Pacific countries of their standing common interest for moving towards peace and stability . The Indian head of state was welcoming Australia's new High Commissioner Bordon Noel Upton who presented his credentials to him today.

Mr Reddy, however, did not make any direct reference to Afghanistan or other tension spots in the region. He said, after referring to the need for defusing "the tensions" in the neighbourhood: "We have a standing interest that the Asian and Pacific region should move towards peace and stability. Towards this end, we welcome the exchange of views we have had with your leaders."

President Reddy said that India not only believed that efforts be made to remove the causes of tensions but that "we must ensure they are not further sharpened by great power antagonisms."

Ambassador Upton said Australia shared "a mutual concern about recent developments in our region," expressing confidence that the two countries could work together towards solving those problems.

In bilateral relations between India and Australia, the president called for greater co-operation in economic and other fields.

GOVERNMENT TO ACCORD FULL RECOGNITION TO PLO OFFICE

BK260834 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government has decided to accord full diplomatic recognition to the office of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in New Delhi. A statement to this effect is being made in the Lok Sabha today by external affairs minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao.

HOME MINISTRY DENIAL ON CIA QUESTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

BK251251 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha, Communist Party of India leader Bhupesh Gupta demanded an inquiry by a committee of the house to find out how an official spokesman denied the statement of Home Minister Zail Singh about CIA involvement in the agitation in the northeastern region.

Mr. Gupta described the denial by an official of a cabinet minister's statement made in the house as a breach of privilege of the house. He said Mr Zail Singh himself has not contradicted his statement so far.

Mr J.S. Anand, also of the Communist Party of India, raised this issue as a special mention and said that Mr Zail Singh himself should have modified his statement in the house. He said denial of a minister's statement made in the house by an official spokesman is derogatory to the house.

Mr. A.G. Kulkarni, Congress; Mr J.P. Mathur, Janata; Mr Dinesh Goswami and Mr Sriman Prafulla Goswami, both independents; also raised this subject and wanted the government to explain the correct position in the matter.

DELHI PEACE CONFERENCE CONDEMNS ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN

BK260348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The international conference for peace and security in Asia, which concluded in New Delhi yesterday, has described the U.S. and Chinese arms supplies to Pakistan as a threat to India and the neighboring countries. In a declaration, the 3-day conference said the U.S.-Chinese move is a threat to peace in Asia and the whole world. It expressed concern on the growing military buildup in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

The conference believed that a political solution to the Afghan problem can be achieved only if the United States and its allies guarantee not to intervene in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Speaking at the concluding session of the conference, information and broadcasting minister, Basant Sathe, said India has always (?talked) of peace and is committed to peace. He said the supply of arms to Pakistan can endanger the security of our country.

DISRUPTION OF TRANSPORTATION CONTINUES IN ASSAM

Airlines Cancel Flights

BK251616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Indian airlines have announced cancellation of all its flights to Assam tomorrow in view of the 12-hour bundh called jointly by the All Assam Students Union and the Gana Sangram Parishad. The northeast frontier railways have decided to suspend their services to and from Assam.

Rail, Road Transport Disrupted

BK251111 Hong Kong AFP in English 1032 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Mar (AFP)--The "economic blockade" of Assam continued for the second day today with Bengali agaitators in its neighbouring West Bengal State (capital) forcibly preventing road and rail cargo movement to the northeastern frontier state.

The indefinite blockade has been launched jointly be the student and youth wings of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party against alleged atrocities on Bengalis in Assam during the continuing "anti-foreigner" mass agitation there.

Reports said that about 500 volunteers squatted on road and rail track points near Siliguri in northern Bengal blocking Assam-bound cargo traffic. About 50 trucks were reported held up.

Four hundred similar squatters were arrested on Monday before the blockade was lifted or removed by police in the afterdon.

In New Delhi a combined opposition move to raise the "blockade" issue in Parliament was disallowed in the lower house by Speaker (presiding officer) Bal Ram. This led to a protest walkout by almost the entire opposition admidst noisy scenes with treasury and opposition benches shouting at each other.

The anti-foreigner agitation was in the meantime resumed today by the Assamese after a lapse of few days during negotiations with the government for a settlement of the problem, which failed. Assam was observing a day-long general strike today as called for by the agitators.

Police Arrest Protesters

BK251614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The police in West Bengal made a lathi [baton] charge and arested 54 Chhatra Parishad-I [students council] and ongress-I volunteers for squatting on the railway tracks and the national highways in their bid to stall movement of goods to Assam on the 2d day today.

Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has reiterated that his government could not tolerate any dislocation of traffic from North Bengal to Assam.

MP's Stage Walkout

BK251037 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Almost the entire opposition in the lower house of Parliament staged a walkout today following the speaker's refusal to allow an adjournment motion on the issue of the Assam blockade. A peaceful blockade was organized yesterday on the national highway leading to the northeastern state of Assam by the youth wing of the ruling Congress Party in protest against the alleged atrocities on non-Assamese in that state.

The walkout took place after 20 minutes of noisy scenes and altercations between the opposition members and the treasury benches. The opposition members alleged that the ruling party is organizing the economic blockade by stopping thousands of trucks on the border of the state. Speaker Bal Ram observed he had carefully gone through the adjournment motion. He said one calling-attention motion and one special motion have been allowed on the issue.

Earlier, as the house assembled for the day opposition leaders suggested that the question hour be suspended to discuss the Assam blockade. The speaker disallowed it, saying no other matter can be raised during question hour.

General Strike Begins

BK260320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The 12-hour Assam bundh [general strike] began at 0600 this morning. The bundh has been called by the All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle Council] jointly as part of their agitation on the foreign nationals issue. All train and air services to and from Assam have been suspended. In Gauhati, all vehicular traffic are off the road. Shops and markets remain closed. However, essential services have been exempted from the bundh. Precautionary arrangements have been made by the state government to maintain law and order in the state.

Officials Continue Talks

BK260322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Two officials of the union Home Ministry--Kampani, additional secretary and (Chabra), joint secretary, had a meeting with the representatives of the All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle Council] for the second time in Gauhati yesterday. They renewed their appeal to the representatives to call off their agitation of the foreign nationals issue immediately.

PAKISTAN'S 'FRONTIER GANDHI' ARRIVES FROM KABUL FOR TREATMENT

BK261002 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Ailing veteran freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan arrived in New Delhi this afternoon from Kabul for medical treatment. He was given a warm welcome at the airport, among others by Home Minister Zail Singh and Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe.

From the airport, "frontier Gandhi" was driven straight to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where he will undergo treatment for acute arthritis and other complications.

PAKISTAN

SPOKESMAN QUALIFIES HAQ REMARKS ON AFGHAN LINKS

BK251648 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said Pakistan firmly adheres to the resolution adopted by the extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference arising out of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He made these comments when his attention was drawn to reports published in newspapers today quoting President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on the situation created by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The spokesman said the president's remarks have been published out of context in misleading terms resulting in unnecessary confusion.

Commenting on the report that the Kabul regime has proposed establishment of joint teams from Muslim and friendly countries for the repatriation and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees, the spokesman said that it is the earnest desire of the Pakistan Government that the refugees should be provided an early opportunity to return to their homes. He said this is possible only with the return of stable conditions in Afghanistan and elimination of the tragic circumstances which forced the Afghan refugees to leave their homes.

The spokesman said Pakistan is ready to cooperate in any genuine search for a political solution which would enable the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, whose number has risen to over 600,000, to return to their homes in safety and honor. The spokesman said the Kabul government proposal lacks credibility and appears to have been made for propaganda purposes.

CARTER'S MESSAGE TO HAQ ON NATIONAL DAY NOTED

BK251642 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] U.S. President Carter has said the United States remains committed to assisting Pakistan in the preservation of its independence and territorial integrity in these critical times. He said this in a message to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on the occasion of Pakistan Day. He said Pakistan Day this year has a special significance in view of the events in the region.

FRG DELEGATION DISCUSSES DRUG PROBLEM WITH OFFICIALS

BK260529 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] An FRG delegation has held talks with officials of the Pakistan narcotics control board in Quetta and with other narcotics control organizations of Baluchistan. The German delegation is visiting Pakistan to explore the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in discouraging the production of narcotics, checking their movement and controlling drug use.

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE ON HOME MINISTER ACCUSING CIA

The following corrections to the item entitled, "Situation in Northeastern Region Discussed," and subtitled "Home Minister Accuses CIA," published in the 24 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, page S 10, were transmitted by London REUTER in English at 1702 GMT on 21 March:

Paragraph one, line one should read: ... intimated today that foreign agents were behind....

Same paragraph, line four should read: ... Ambassador Rober Goheen toured the Northeast last year....

BRIEFS

OIL DRILLING--Drilling for oil in the Andaman Islands waters has begun. The oil and natural gas commission has chartered a U.S. vessel for this purpose. Drilling is 20 kilometers east of Port Blair. All India Radio Port Blair correspondent understands that the drilling will be over by May 31 this year. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK]

SOVIET STEEL PLANT--India is negotiating with the Soviet Union for the import of a turnkey plant for steel production in order to help the Heavy Engineering Corporation [HEC] to augment its capacity for steel manufacture. Finance Minister Venkataraman told the upper house of Parliament 20 March that the Soviet Union will help HEC to utilize its capacity. He informed the house that the plant is very good and one of the biggest in Asia but it has not been utilized to its optimum capacity. The house was also informed that the government is considering a proposal to set up a factory to manufacture the advanced airborne systems equipment. The government-owned Hidustan Aeronautics Limited in Bangalore has offered to establish the factory. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 80 BK]